SCARY BOOK

REFLECTIONS

楳図かずお KAZUO UMEZU

VOLUME 1

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GRAPHIC NOVEL / MANGA / HORROR

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The spine-chilling influence of Japanese horror cinema has taken hold of Western audiences, with many of these terrifying films being adapted from classic manga stories. The acknowledged grandmaster of horror manga is Kazuo Umezu—known as "the Stephen King of manga," with several of his stories being adapted to film—and Dark Horse Manga is proud to bring his *Scary Book* horror anthology to Western readers for the first time. *Reflections* offers two feature-length tales of terror: "The Mirror," in which a narcissistic girl's reflection begins to take ruthless command of her life; and "Demon of Vengeance," where a sadistic warlord bent on seeking retribution for his selfish and reckless son's injuries finds the tables of revenge turned against him. Find out what Japanese readers have known for many years—you haven't been scared until you've been scared by Kazuo Umezu!

This collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format, as originally published.

DARK HORSE 20 YEARS

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梅図かずお KAZUO UMEZU

VOLUME 1

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SCARY BOOK vol. 1: REFLECTIONS

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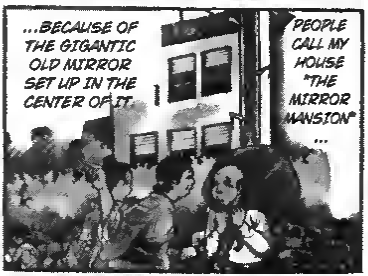
"THE MIRROR"

SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL, THERE HAS BEEN NO OBJECT THOUGHT MORE OTHERWORLDLY OR TREATED MORE PRECIOUSLY THAN THE MIRROR, INDISPENSIBLE TO DAILY LIFE. ONE MUSN'T BE TEMPTED BY PRIDE AFTER BEING DRAWN INTO ITS WORLD OF MYSTERY AND ILLUSIONS. AFTER READING THIS TALE, GAZE INTO THE MIRROR AGAIN, AND PRAY THAT YOU MAY BECOME BEAUTIFUL ONCE MORE...

*Sign HONANO



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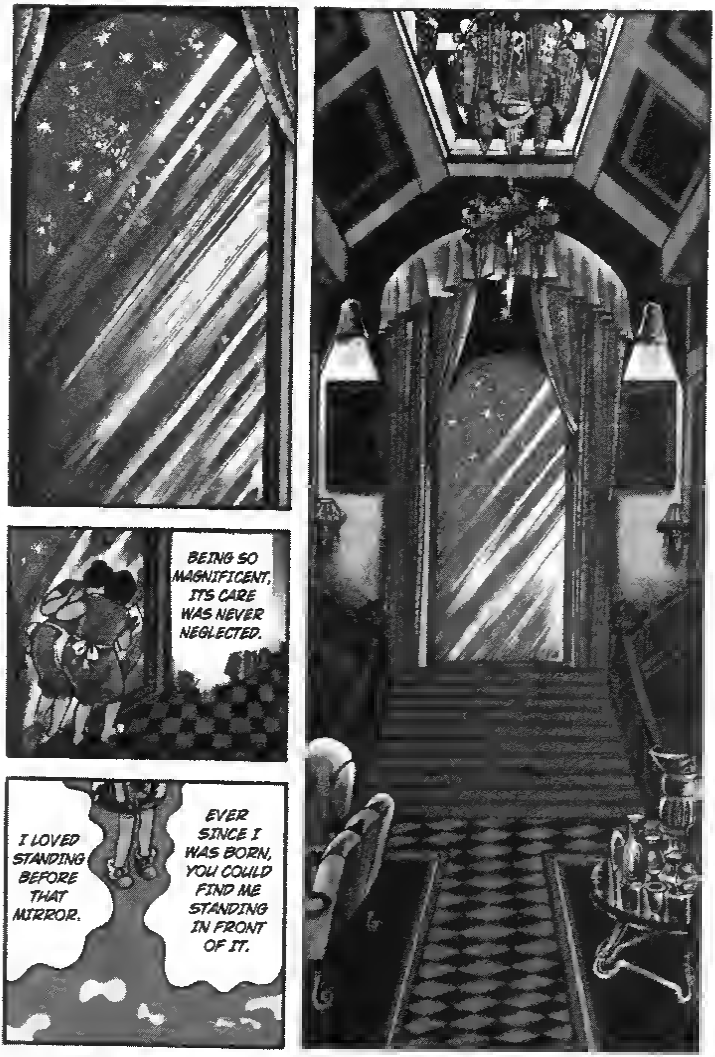
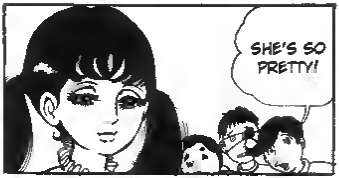

BEING SO MAGNIFICENT, IT'S CARE WAS NEVER NEGLECTED.
I LOVED STANDING BEFORE THAT MIRROR.
EVER SINCE I WAS BORN, YOU COULD FIND ME STANDING IN FRONT OF IT.

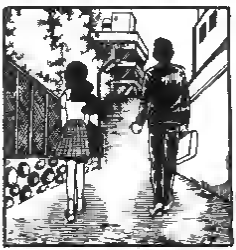
WHEN I WAS SMALL, I WAS SURPRISED AND EXCITED BY MY REFLEC-TION.
AS I BEGAN TO APPRECIATE FORMS, I STOOD IN FRONT OF IT MORE AND MORE
I KNEW IT WAS MERELY MY OWN REFLECTION, BUT I NEVER GOT TIRED OF GAZING AT MYSELF. I WAS ALWAYS CAPTIVATED BY THE ME IN THE MIRROR.
AS I WOULD SMILE, OR TURN TO THE SIDE, OR DECORATE MYSELF, IT FELT GOOD HAVING FREE CONTROL OVER THE WILL OF MY SELF IN THE MIRROR.

WE WERE SO CLOSE, OTHERS ENVIED US. I ADORED MITSUGU AND HE ADORED ME.
IN FIFTH GRADE I GOT A BOYFRIEND--SIXTH GRADER MITSUGU OKADA.
I WANTED MITSUGU TO SEE MY BEAUTY, AND SO I WAS LOOKING AT MYSELF EVEN MORE.
AND THE MORE WE ADORED, THE MORE I STOOD IN FRONT OF THE MIRROR.
BEAUTIFUL
THERE'S MISS HANANO!
MY MOTHER WAS A FORMER CELEBRITY, SO I WAS OFTEN COURTED BY TV STATIONS, BUT MY MOTHER WAS GREATLY AGAINST IT AND ALWAYS REFUSED THEM.
AND SO I GOT PRETTIER AND PRETTIER
MY NAME IS EMI.
THEY SAY MY MOTHER WAS ALSO AMAZINGLY PRETTY IN HER YOUTH AND STOOD BEFORE THIS MIRROR.

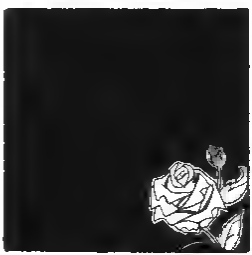


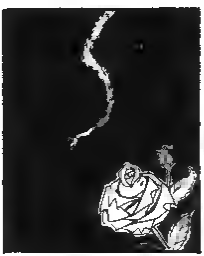
BY SEVENTH GRADE, I'D ALREADY GOTTEN PROPOSALS AND REJECTED THEM. THERE WERE COUNTLESS OFFERS TO BE MY STEADY.

BUT I FELT FONDER OF MITSUGU THAN EVER BEFORE.



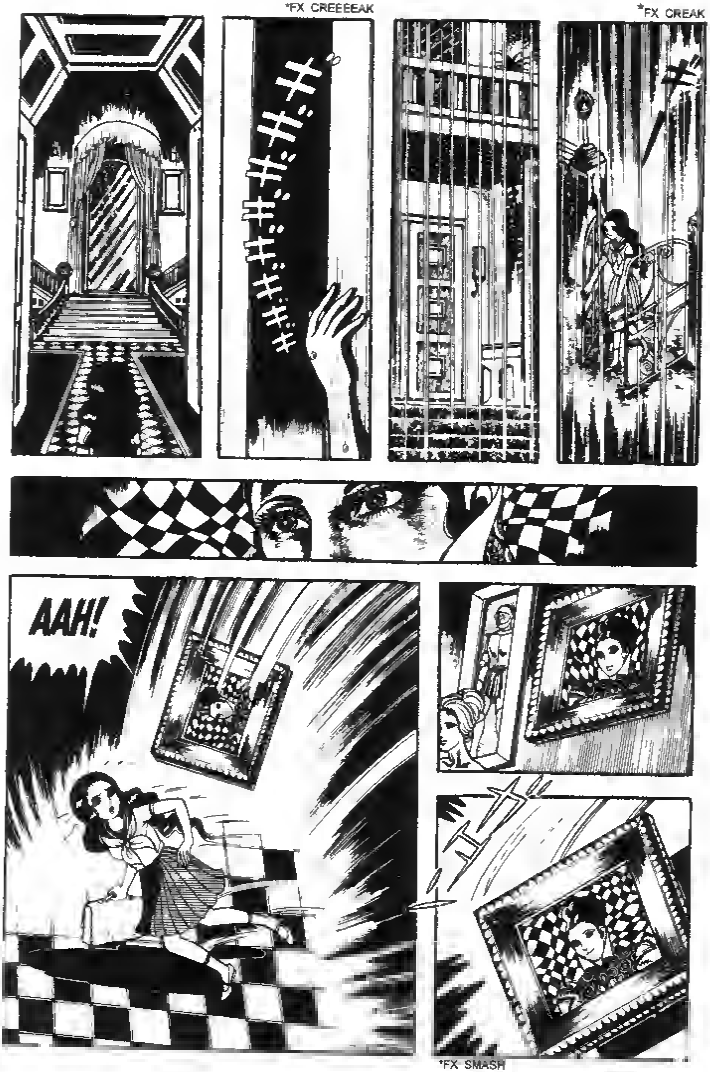
AND THEN, WHEN I WAS IN GRADE TWELVE AND MITSUGU HAD STARTED UNIVERSITY, DISASTER STRUCK AS SUDDENLY AS A SPRING STORM.

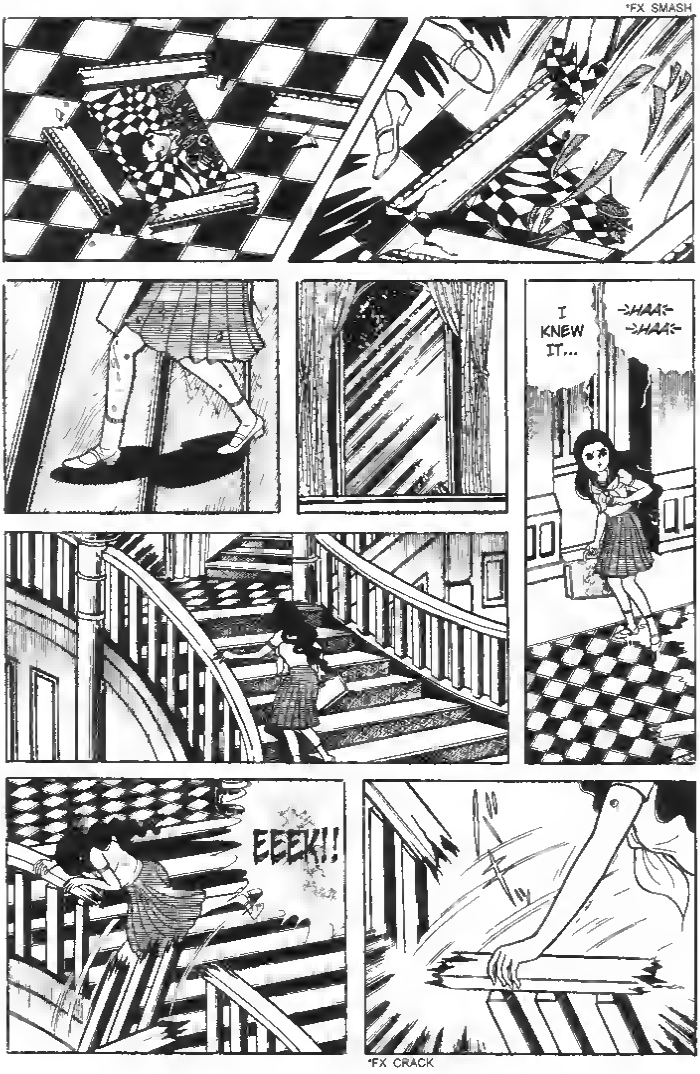


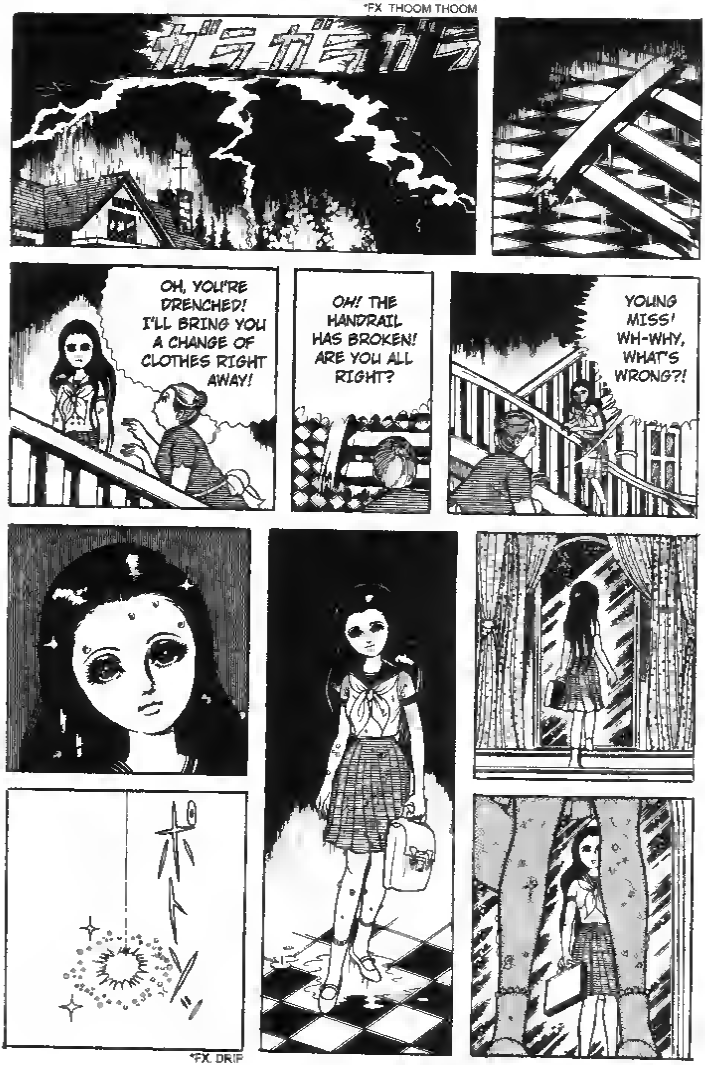


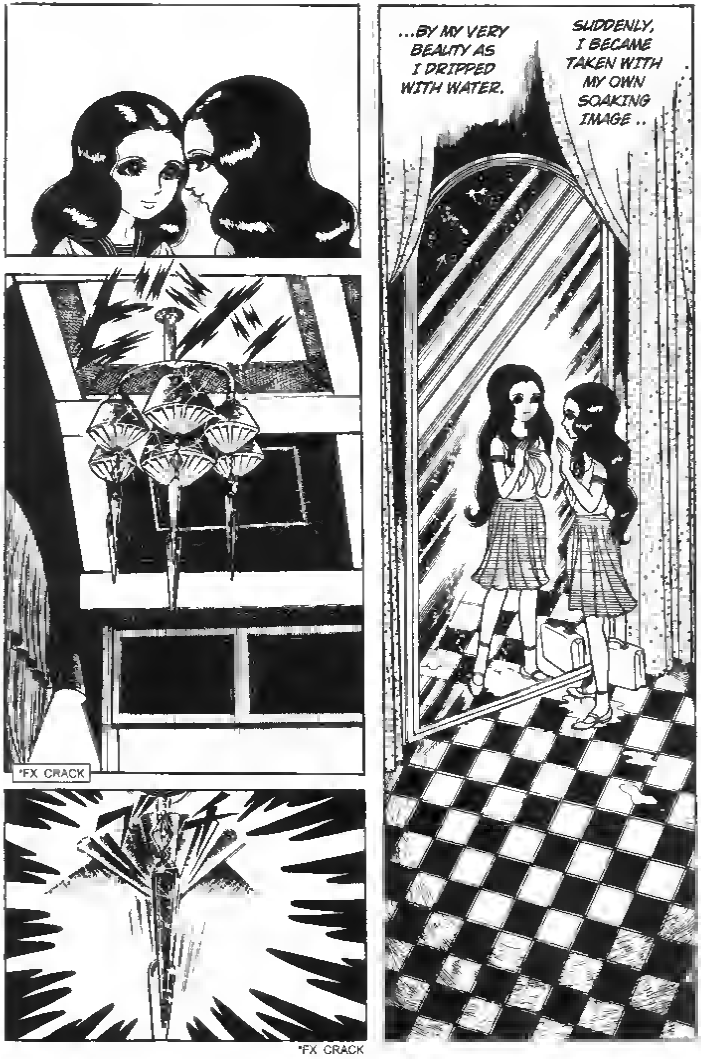
*FX THOOM THOOM
WELL... I'VE BEEN FEELING VERY STRANGE LATELY...
WHAT'S WRONG, EMI? WHY THE LONG FACE?
IT'S SOMETHING I CAN'T SEE... I'M SCARED TO GO HOME.
LIKE A GAZE PIERCING INTO MY CHEST... AND THAT'S NOT ALL...
YES, AS IF SOMEONE'S ALWAYS WATCHING ME WITH HATE IN THEIR EYES.
STRANGE?
MY DEAR EMI...
WHA!--?!
*FX FOOSH
THAT DAY WAS STEAMING HOT..
*FX DRIP
WHO..? I DON'T KNOW. ANYWAY, I'VE BEEN FEELING UNEASY ABOUT IT.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

*FX. SLAP
AAH!
I DECIDED IN MY HEART TO NEVER THINK OF HIM AGAIN
THAT WAS THE END FOR US
WE'RE THROUGH!
I HAD FELT IT EVER SINCE I HAD BECOME AWARE OF MY OWN BEAUTY...
AS I APPROACHED MY HOUSE, I FELT A STRONG, INDESCRIBABLE EERINESS IN THE AIR...


*FX CREEEEAK
*FX CREAK
AAH!
*FX SMASH


*FX SMASH
I KNEW IT...
-HAA-
-HAA-
EEEK!!
*FX CRACK


*FX THOOM THOOM
ガラガラ
OH, YOU'RE DRENCHED! I'LL BRING YOU A CHANGE OF CLOTHES RIGHT AWAY!
OH! THE HANDRAIL HAS BROKEN! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YOUNG MISS! WH-WHY, WHAT'S WRONG?!
*FX DRIP

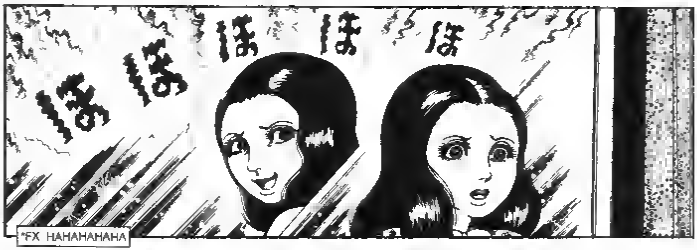

...BY MY VERY BEAUTY AS I DRIPPED WITH WATER.
SUDDENLY, I BECAME TAKEN WITH MY OWN SOAKING IMAGE ..
*FX CRACK
*FX CRACK

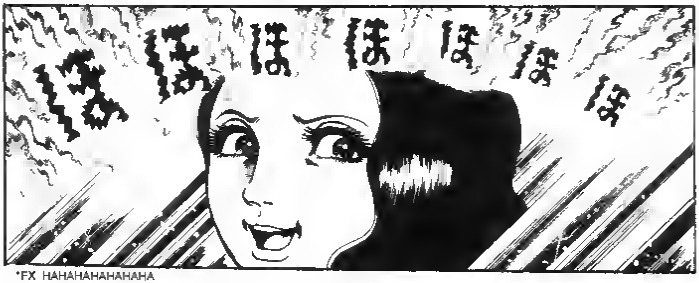
*FX SMASH
EEEK!!
-HAH-
-HAH-
THAT NIGHT...
THAT CONSTANT STABBING FEELING, CLOSING IN ON ME FROM SOMEWHERE...
I HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT IT IS TONIGHT...
THAT FEELING AGAIN...
*FX FLASH

AT THAT MOMENT I REALIZED... YOU CAN'T LOCATE SOMETHING FORMLESS USING YOUR EYES.. SO I SHUT THEM AND TRIED TO LOCATE THAT DREADED SENSATION WITH MY FEELINGS.
IT'S IN THIS DIREC-TION!
AAH!!
HUH--?!

BUT THERE'S NO ONE HERE..
THE MIRROR! IT'S COMING FROM HERE? HOW?!
OH YES, THERE IS!
WHA--?!

*FX HAHAHAHA





*FX HAHAHAHAHAHAHA

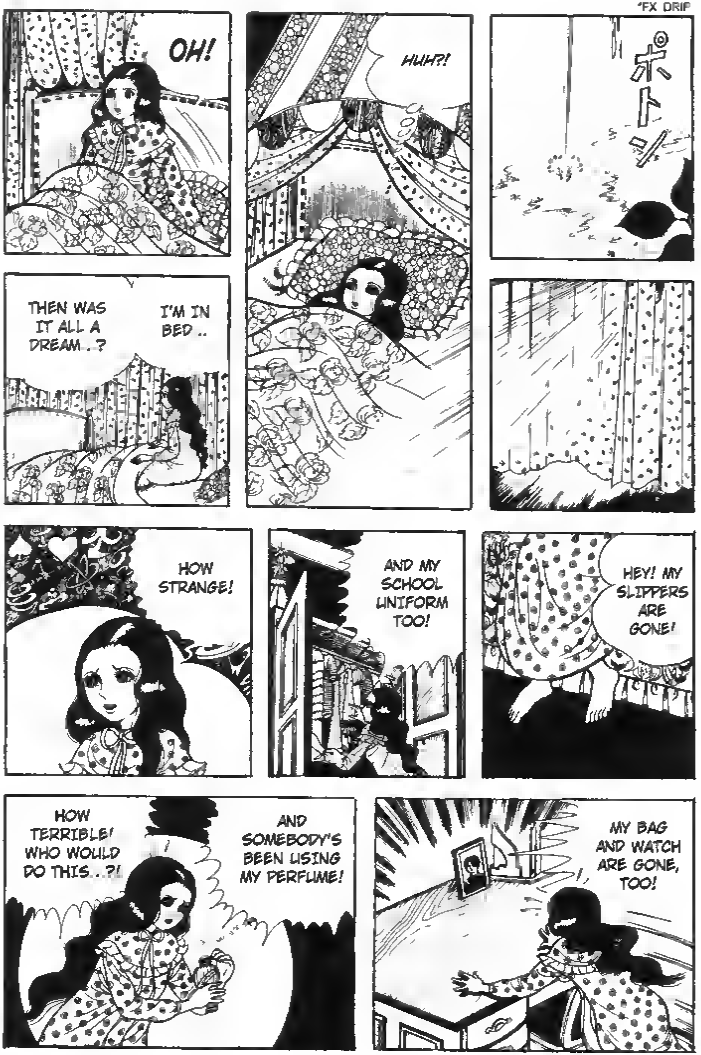
*FX HAHAHAHA

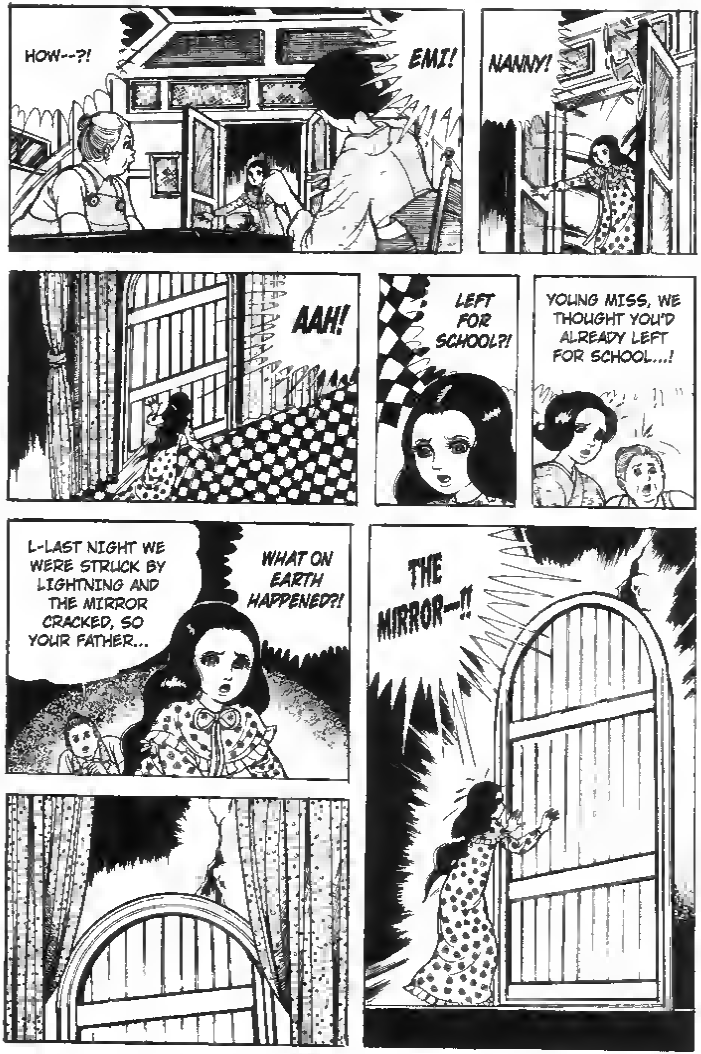
*FX HAHAHAHA
EEEEK!!
ほほほほほ
HMPH!
YES .. AND SINCE YOUR NAME IS EMI, MY NAME IS EMI TOO!
IT'S ME, EMI! YOUR REFLECTION!
AAH!!
EEEEK!!
HAHA...! IT'S NO USE TRYING TO RUN!
*FX CREAK

...BUT-- I AM NO REFLECTION!
YOU MAY BELIEVE THAT I'M YOUR REFLECTION IN THE MIRROR...
*FX. HAHAHAHAHA
HAHAHAHA
*FX. CRASH
ガラ
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S REFLECTED IN MY MIRROR! YOU ALL THINK YOU'RE THE REAL THING, BUT YOU'RE WRONG!
YOU NEED TO THINK AGAIN-- FROM WHERE I'M STANDING, YOU'RE THE REFLECTION!
BUT, LOOK!
I HATE FOOLS LIKE YOU WHO DON'T BELIEVE ANYTHING!
THEN DON'T BELIEVE IT!
THAT'S A LIE!!

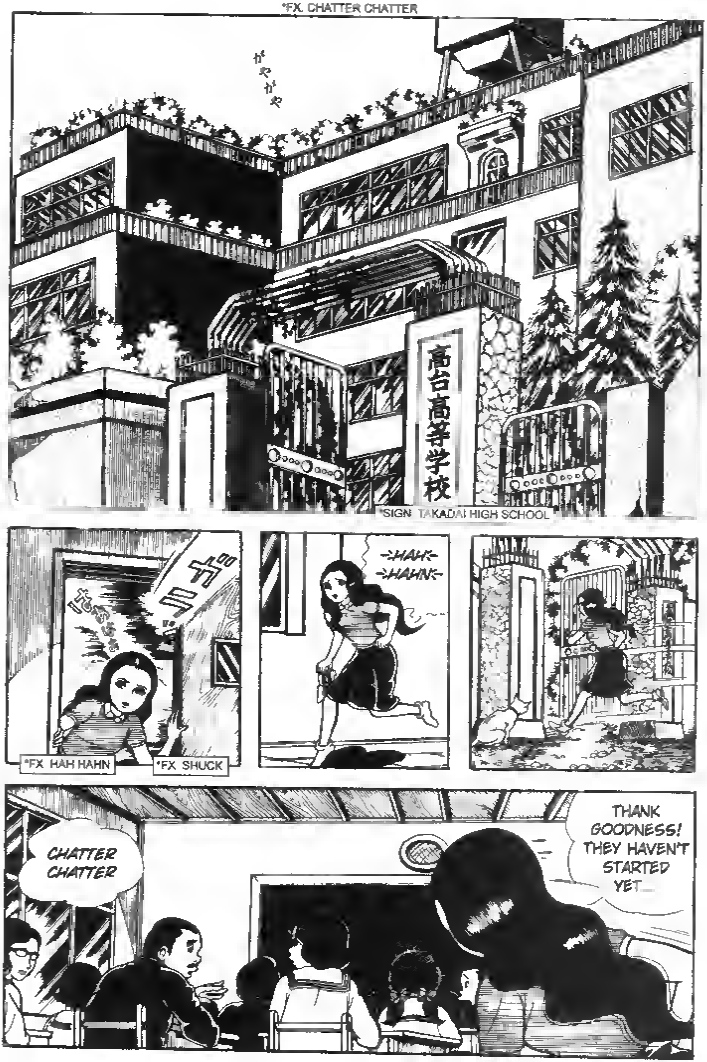
AAH!
≒HUH≒
≒HUH≒
NOW, DO YOU UNDERSTAND...?
EEK!
*FX. FSHH
AND TODAY I'M COMING THROUGH THIS WALL...
I'M THE BEAUTIFUL ONE!
BUT THE TRUTH IS YOU WERE NEVER ONCE LOOKING AT YOURSELF! YOU WERE ALWAYS LOOKING AT ME AND SIGHING LIKE THAT!
YOU ALWAYS STOOD IN FRONT OF THIS MIRROR THINKING YOU WERE ADMIRING YOUR OWN BEAUTIFUL FORM...

*FX FSSSH
EEK!
AAAH!!
ピカッ
ガラガラ
*FX FLASH RUMBLE RUMBLE
HURRRK!!
ドド
*FX THOOM


OH!
HUH?!
*FX DRIP
ポトン
THEN WAS IT ALL A DREAM..?
I'M IN BED..
HOW STRANGE!
AND MY SCHOOL UNIFORM TOO!
HEY! MY SLIPPERS ARE GONE!
HOW TERRIBLE! WHO WOULD DO THIS..?!
AND SOMEBODY'S BEEN USING MY PERFUME!
MY BAG AND WATCH ARE GONE, TOO!


HOW--?!
EMI!
NANNY!
AAH!
LEFT FOR SCHOOL?!
YOUNG MISS, WE THOUGHT YOU'D ALREADY LEFT FOR SCHOOL...!
L-LAST NIGHT WE WERE STRUCK BY LIGHTNING AND THE MIRROR CRACKED, SO YOUR FATHER...
WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED?!
THE MIRROR--!!

BUT I HAVE TO GET TO SCHOOL!
FINE! I'LL WEAR DIFFERENT ONES!
Y-YOU HAD YOUR BAG, TOO, AS ALWAYS!
YOU JUST WORE THEM OUT!
WHERE DID YOU PUT THEM? I'M LATE!
I'M GONNA BE LATE FOR SCHOOL! GIVE ME MY CLOTHES, PLEASE!
YOU WORE THEM WHEN YOU LEFT!
MY SCHOOL SHOES ARE GONE!
Y-YOUNG MISS, YOU USED IT BEFORE YOU WENT OUT, REMEMBER..?
WHAT'S MY HAND-KERCHIEF DOING HERE..?
BUT THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
COULD IT BE--?!
HADAH!!


*FX. CHATTER CHATTER
高台高等学校
*SIGN: TAKADAI HIGH SCHOOL
*FX. HAH HAHN
*FX. SHUCK
-HAH-
-HAHN-
CHATTER CHATTER
THANK GOODNESS! THEY HAVEN'T STARTED YET...

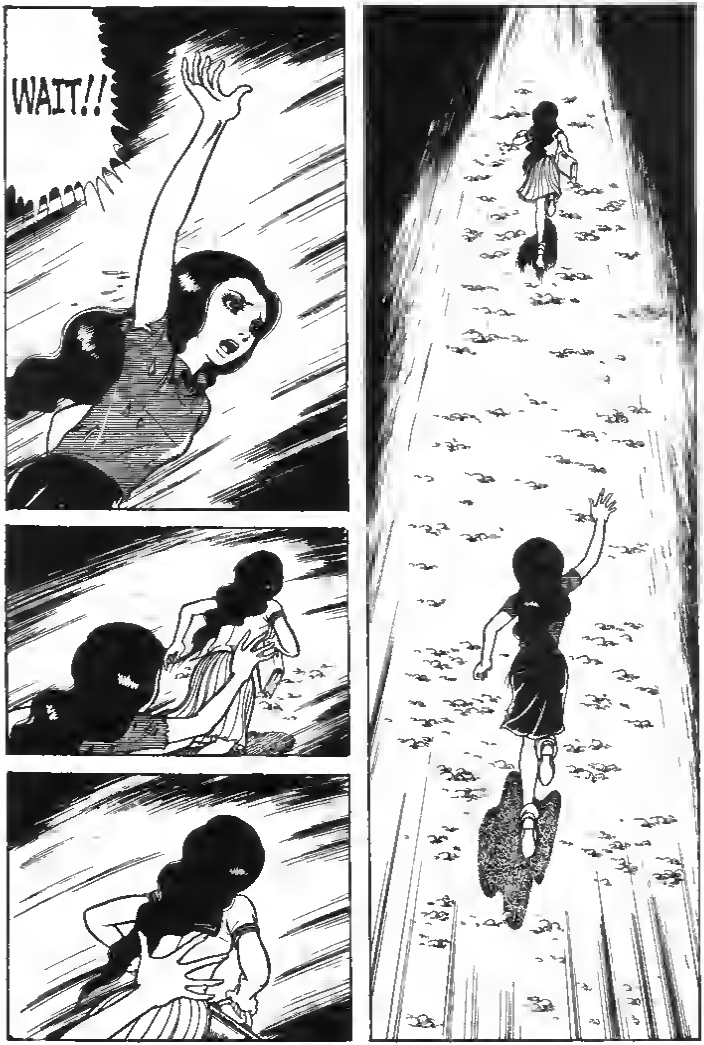
WHO BROUGHT THIS?!
THIS IS MY BAG!
WHAT DID THE TEACHER WANT?
MISS HANANO, WHAT HAPPENED?
ぽおー
OH!
HUH?!
*FX ("SOUND" OF FACE TURNING RED)
WHU--?!
HUH?! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?! I'D NEVER DATE YOU, WAKATONO!
M--MISS HANANO, Y--YOU REALLY WON'T BREAK OFF OUR DATE, WILL YOU...?
WH-WHAT IS IT?

THE TEACHER SEEMED AWFULLY ANGRY ABOUT THAT TEST BEFORE!
ANYWAY, YOU'D BETTER GET TO THE TEACHER'S ROOM!
WHAT?!
YOU'RE TERRIBLE! YOU PROMISED! YOU SAID YOU HATED OKADA NOW, SO YOU'D BE MY FRIEND!
LANGUAGE TEST
教員室
*SIGN TEACHER'S ROOM
LANGUAGE TEST
QUESTION 1
JUST LOOK AT THIS ANSWER SHEET! I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A FRIVOLOUS WRITING STYLE!
CHATTER CHATTER
PHYSICAL EXAMS ARE SCHEDULED FOR AFTER CLASS TODAY, SO DON'T GO HOME EARLY!

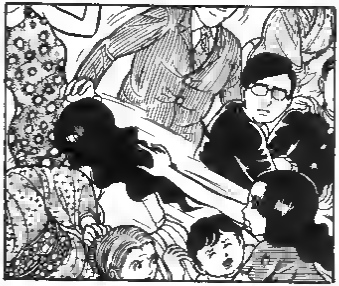
CHATTER CHATTER CHATTER
AH! I FORGOT TO BRING A STOOL SAMPLE!
男子女入り禁止
WOW... WHAT GREAT STYLE. .
LOOK, THERE'S EMI...
KNOW WHAT I HEARD? ELIZABETH'S GOT CHEST HAIR!
HEY, DOTEKO WEIGHS 63 KILOS!
WHO WOULD DO SUCH A THING?!
SOMEBODY PUT THESE RATTY CLOTHES IN MY LOCKER...
HUH?!
*Sign CHANGE ROOM
IF PEOPLE SAW ME, THEY'D THINK I WAS A TOTALLY DIFFERENT PERSON. MAYBE THAT WAS THE PLAN..
I PUT ON THOSE CLOTHES AND RAN LIKE I WAS ESCAPING . .
YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING HOME, REMEMBER?
WHERE TO, I WONDER...
HEY! I THOUGHT YOU SWITCHED THOSE CLOTHES YOURSELF AND LEFT ALREADY! YOU HAD YOUR BAG, TOO!

*Sign NO BOYS ALLOWED!!

HUH?!
I KNEW IT!
THAT'S ME FROM BEHIND!
THAT'S--!!
HOLD ON!!
W-WAIT!!


WAIT!!

ボン
ホンレコード



WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING, GIRL!
仲山組工事現場
NOW I'VE LOST HER!

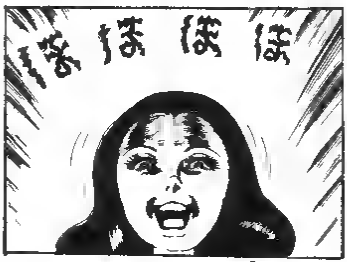
BUT SHE LOOKED EXACTLY LIKE ME FROM BEHIND WITH MY SCHOOL UNIFORM ON!
LOOK! A LADY BEGGAR!
IT'LL SPREAD!
SHE STINKS! DON'T GET ANY CLOSER!
YUCK!
SHE'S A WITCH!
AAH! LOOK HOW SHE'S GLARING AT US!
SORRY!
じじ
33
*FX GLARE
*FX BUMP
WELL!!

WELL, I--!!
HEY DON'T BAD-MOUTH HER!
WHAT A VULGAR GIRL..! LOOKING AT US WITH THAT ARROGANT, UGLY FACE!
LET'S GO!
*FX GLARE GLARE
"UGLY"...?!
I'M THE BEAUTIFUL ONE...!
EVERY TIME YOU LOOKED IN THE MIRROR, IT WAS ME YOU SAW..!
WHAT!
YOU THINK YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL, BUT HAVE YOU EVER ONCE ACTUALLY SEEN YOURSELF?

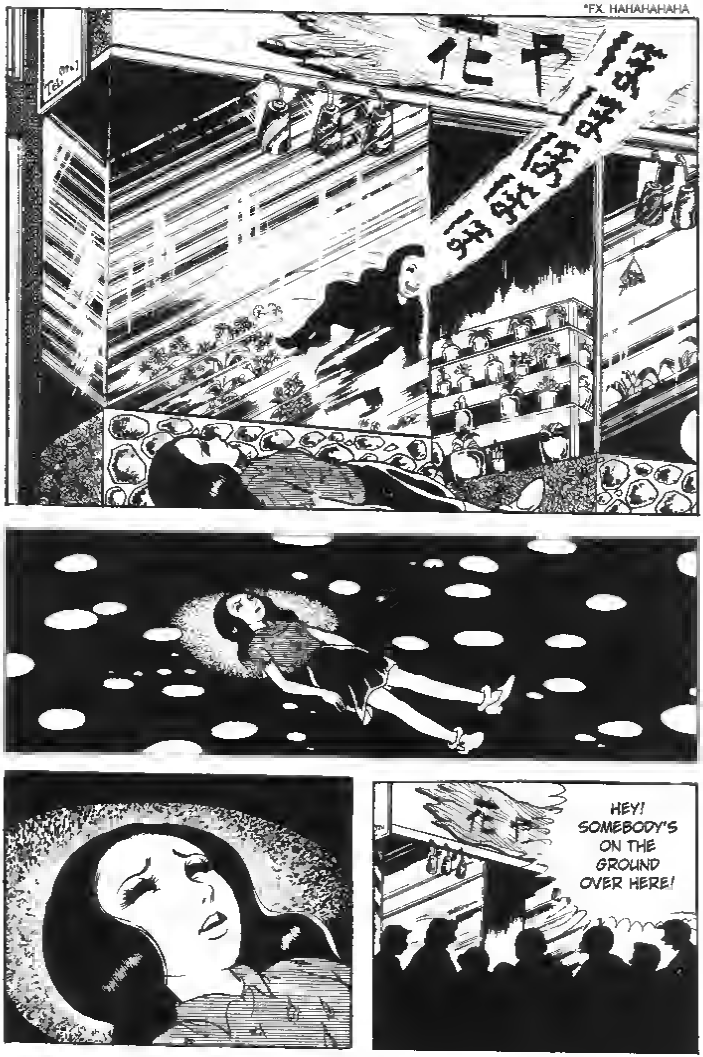
*Sign FLOWER SHOP
IT'S A LIE!!
IT CAN'T BE TRUE... I CAN'T BE UGLY...
IT CAN'T..

*FX GLARE

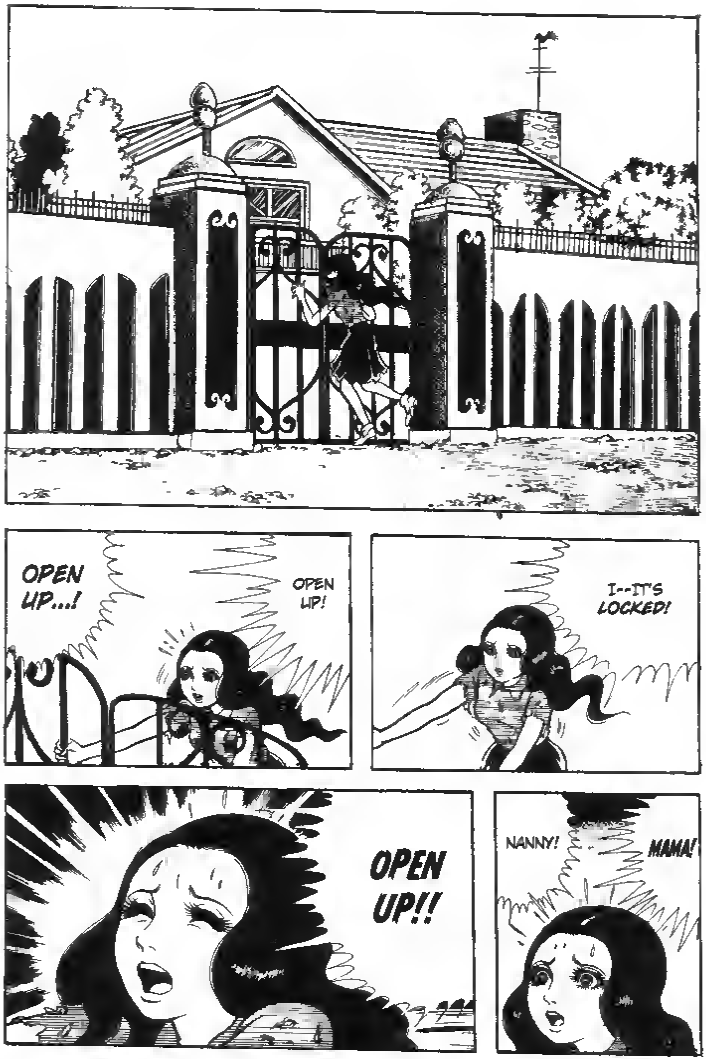
*FX EEEEK

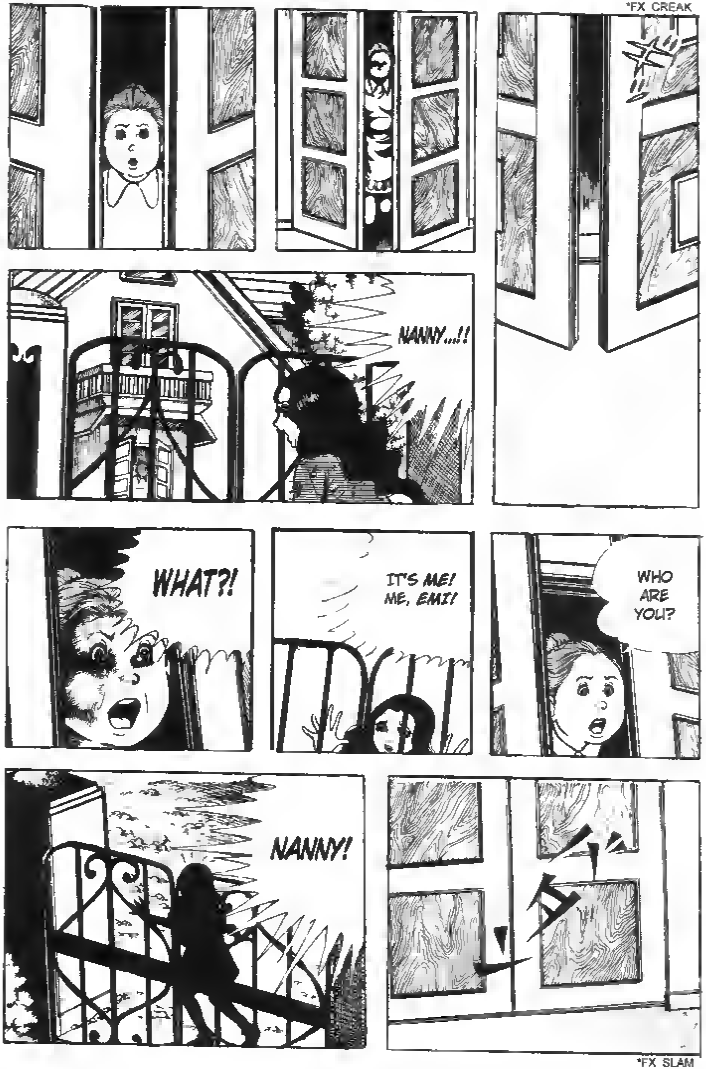


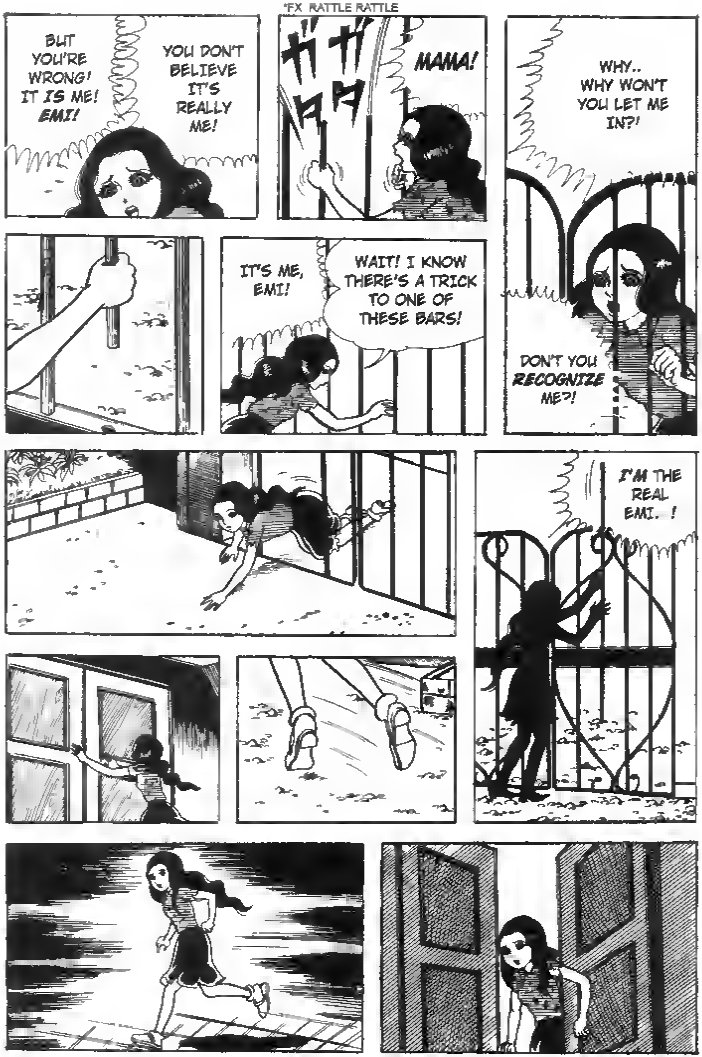
*FX HAHAHAHA


*FX. HAHAHAHAHA
HEY! SOMEBODY'S ON THE GROUND OVER HERE!

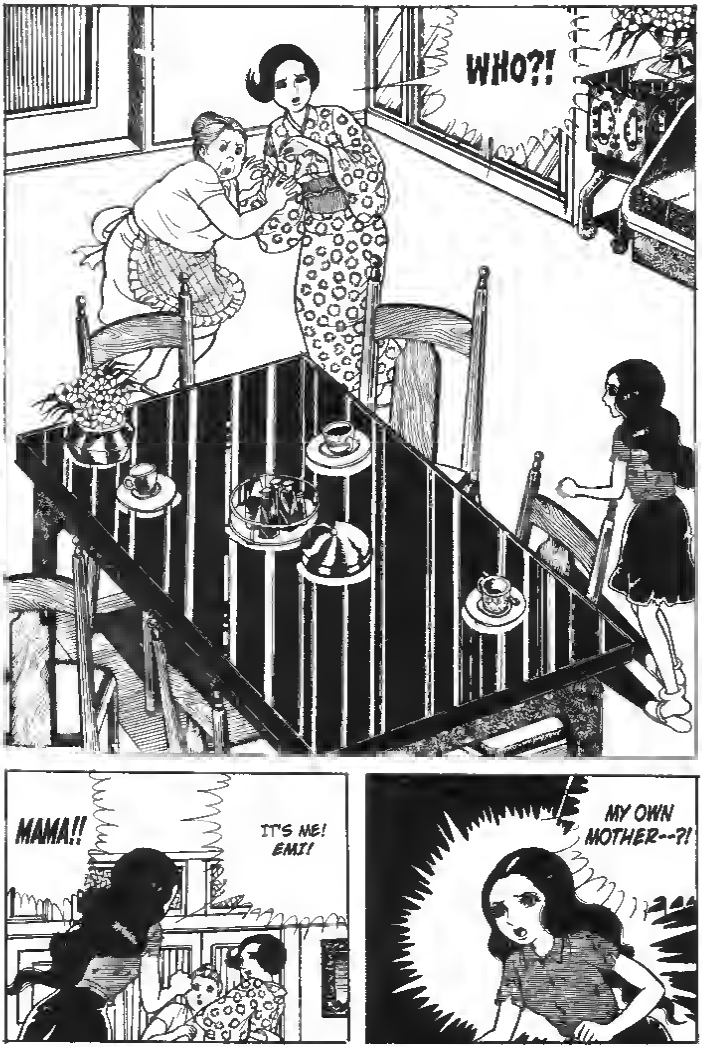
AW! SO SHE'D JUST FAINTED!
HEY, THE BEGGAR'S WOKEN UP AGAIN!
WOOF WOOF
WOOF

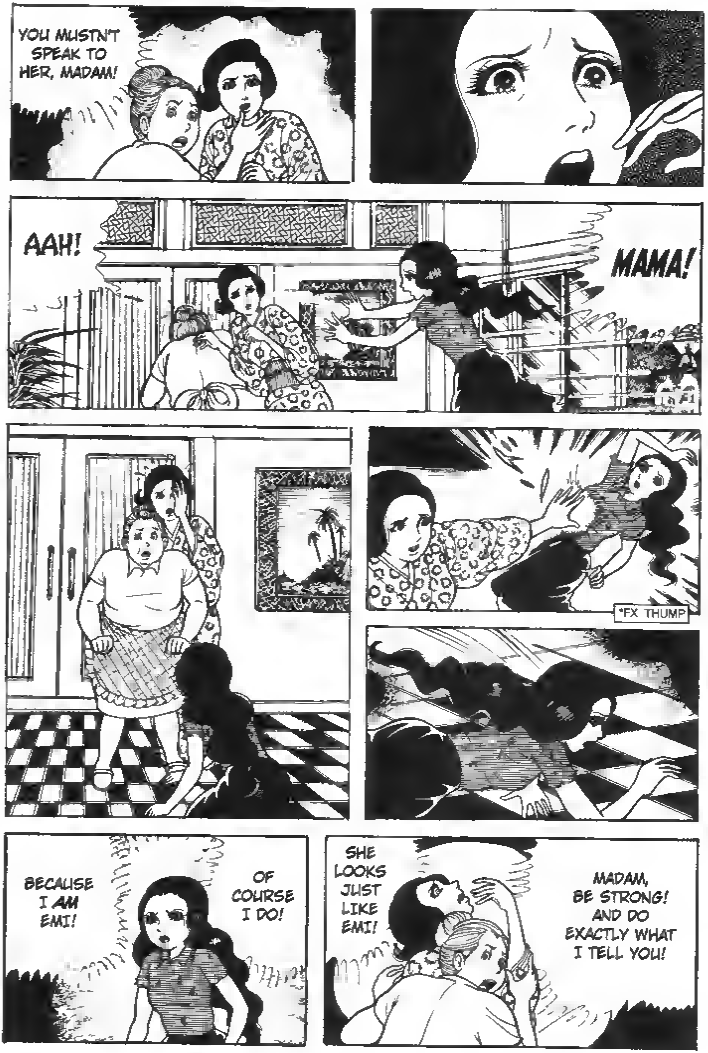

OPEN UP...!
OPEN UP!
I--IT'S LOCKED!
OPEN UP!!
NANNY!
MAMA!


*FX CREAK
NANNY...!!
WHAT?!
IT'S ME! ME, EMI!
WHO ARE YOU!?
NANNY!
*FX SLAM

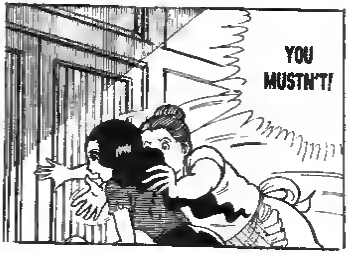

*FX RATTLE RATTLE
BUT YOU'RE WRONG! IT IS ME! EMI!
YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT'S REALLY ME!
ガガガ
MAMA!
WHY.. WHY WON'T YOU LET ME IN?!
IT'S ME, EMI!
WAIT! I KNOW THERE'S A TRICK TO ONE OF THESE BARS!
DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME?!
I'M THE REAL EMI. !

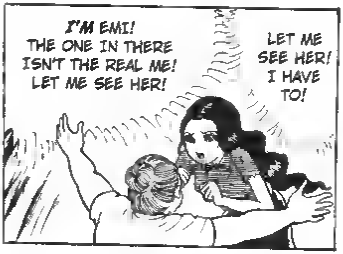
MAMA!
MADAM! TH-THIS WAS THE GIRL!!
EEEK!!
WHO ARE YOU?!

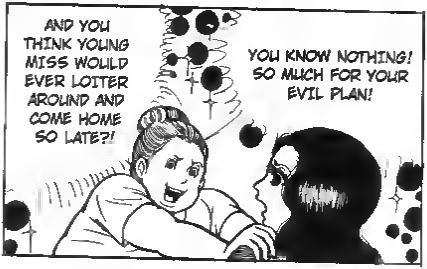

WHO?!
MAMA!!
IT'S ME! EMI!
MY OWN MOTHER--?!


YOU MUSTN'T SPEAK TO HER, MADAM!
AAH!
MAMA!
*FX THUMP
BECAUSE I AM EMI!
OF COURSE I DO!
SHE LOOKS JUST LIKE EMI!
MADAM, BE STRONG! AND DO EXACTLY WHAT I TELL YOU!

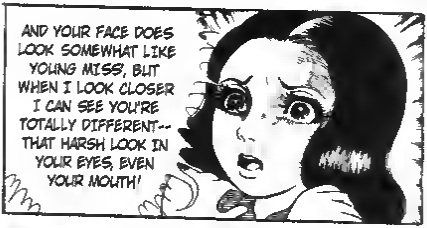
YOUNG MISS EMI WAS HERE HAVING DINNER WITH US ONLY A MOMENT AGO!
WHAT?!
HO HO HO HO!
SPEAK ALL THE FOOLISHNESS YOU WANT!
I WATCHED HER WHEN SHE WENT IN TO BE SURE!
IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT, SHE'S IN HER ROOM!
WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
*FX DASH

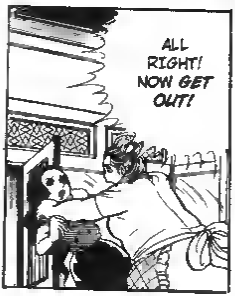

YOU MUSTN'T!


I'M EMI! THE ONE IN THERE ISN'T THE REAL ME! LET ME SEE HER!
LET ME SEE HER! I HAVE TO!


AND YOU THINK YOUNG MISS WOULD EVER LOITER AROUND AND COME HOME SO LATE?!
YOU KNOW NOTHING! SO MUCH FOR YOUR EVIL PLAN!

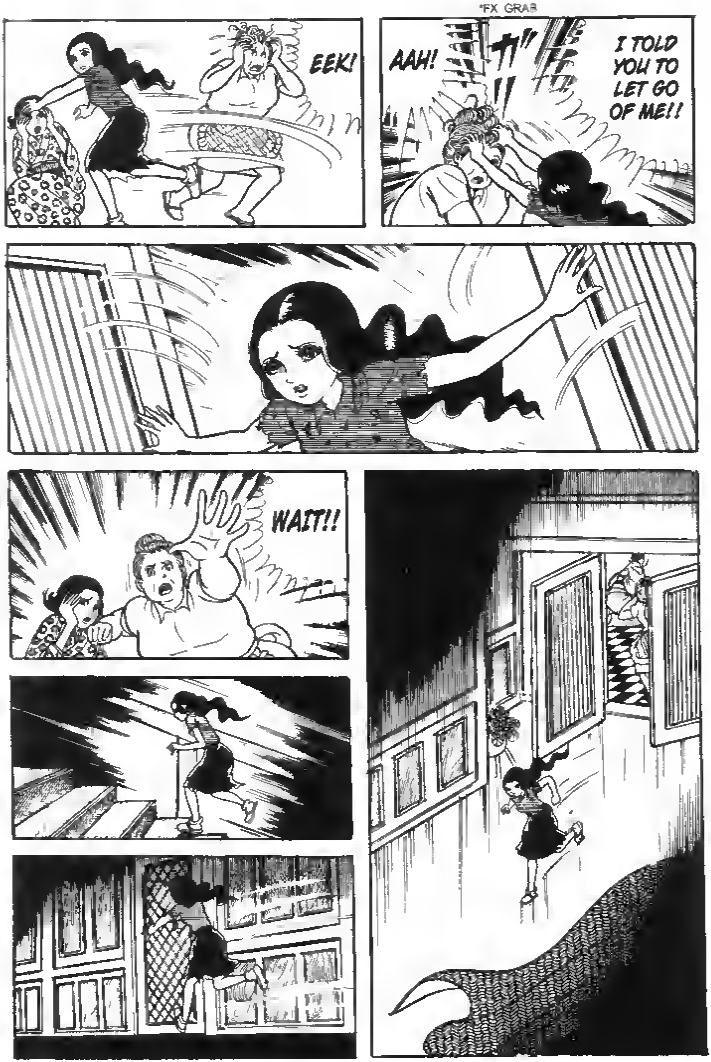
FIRST OF ALL, DO YOU THINK OUR YOUNG MISS WOULD EVER WEAR SUCH SHODDY CLOTHING?!

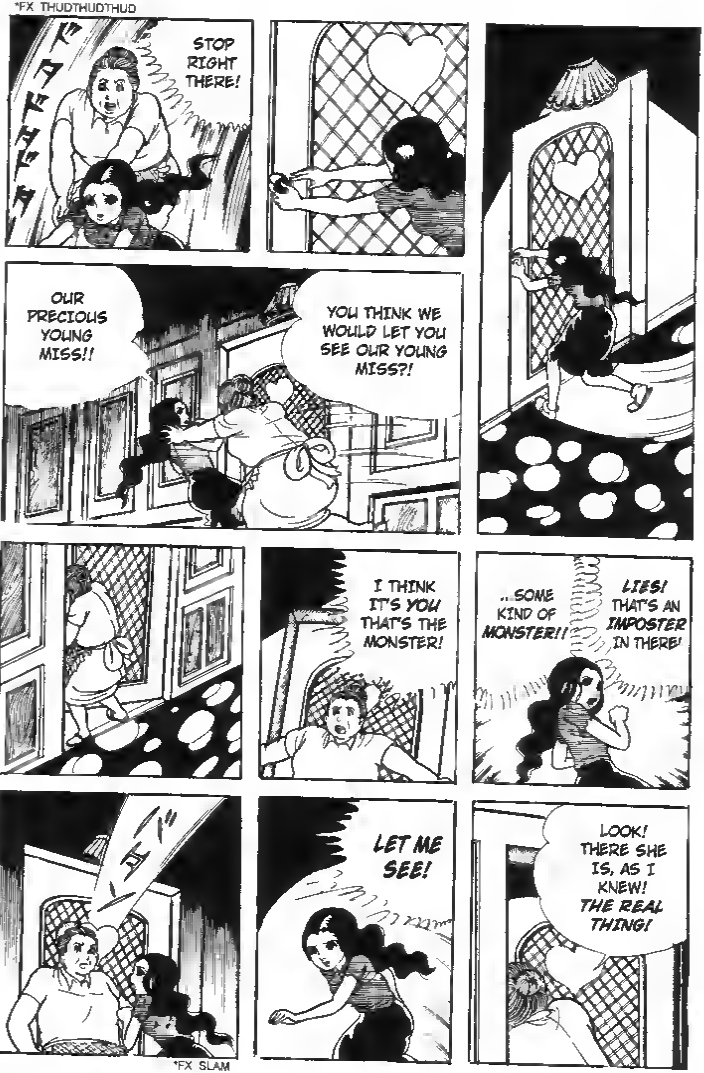

AND YOUR FACE DOES LOOK SOMEWHAT LIKE YOUNG MISS', BUT WHEN I LOOK CLOSER I CAN SEE YOU'RE TOTALLY DIFFERENT-- THAT HARSH LOOK IN YOUR EYES, EVEN YOUR MOUTH!

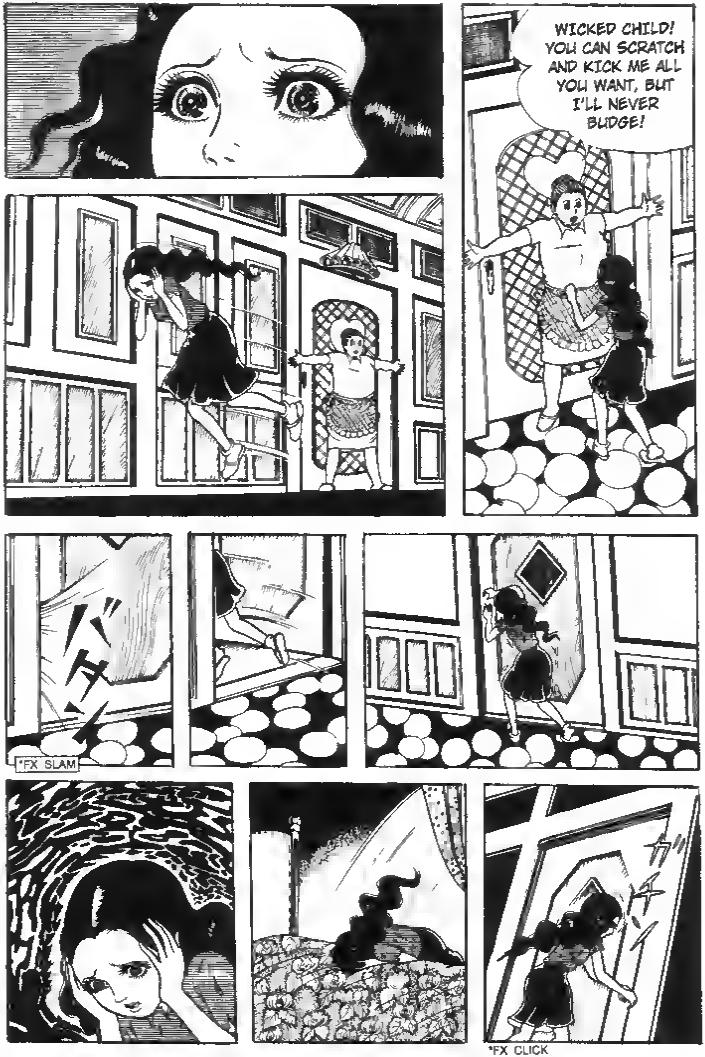

ALL RIGHT! NOW GET OUT!

A-HA! OUR YOUNG MISS WOULD NEVER ADDRESS HER ELDERS SO RUDELY! THAT'S CERTAIN PROOF! YOUNG MISS IS NEVER SO HYSTERICAL!

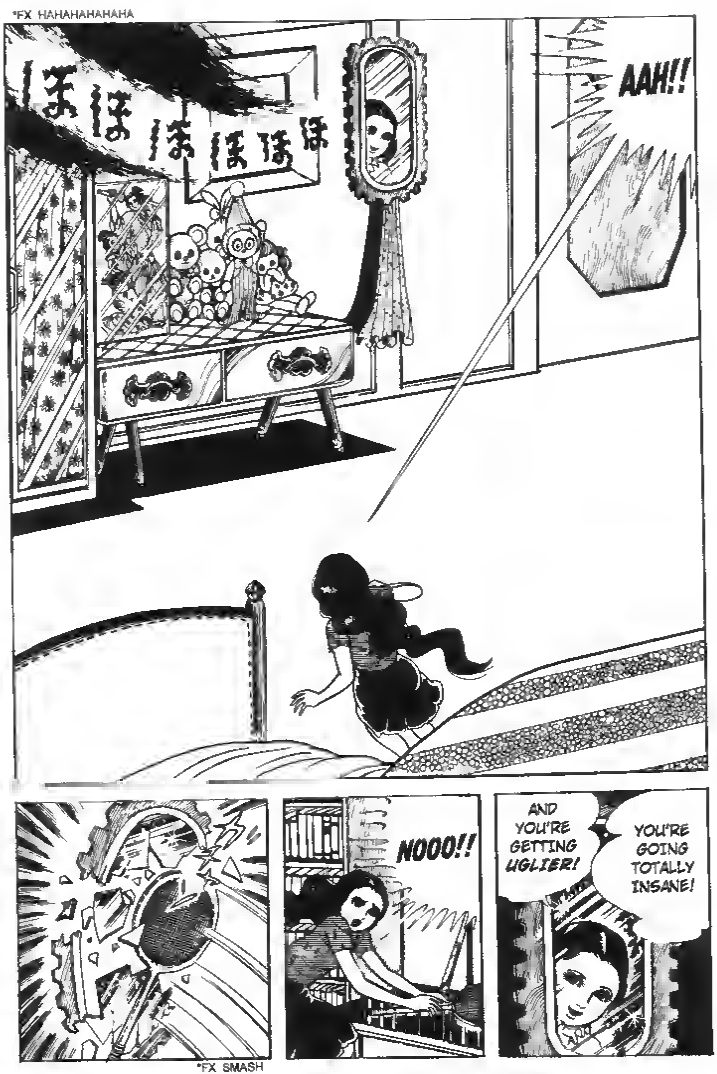
LET GO OF ME!


EEK!
*FX GRAB
AAH!
I TOLD YOU TO LET GO OF ME!!
WAIT!!

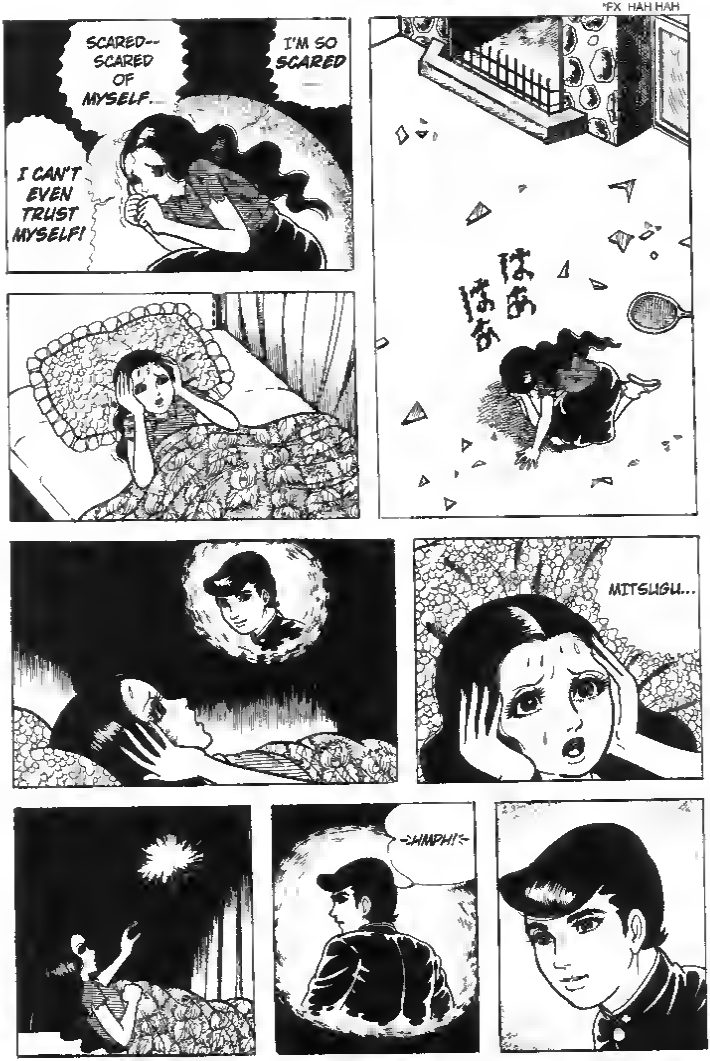

*FX THUDTHUDTHUD
STOP RIGHT THERE!
OUR PRECIOUS YOUNG MISS!!
YOU THINK WE WOULD LET YOU SEE OUR YOUNG MISS?!
I THINK IT'S YOU THAT'S THE MONSTER!
...SOME KIND OF MONSTER!!
LIES! THAT'S AN IMPOSTER IN THERE!
LET ME SEE!
LOOK! THERE SHE IS, AS I KNEW! THE REAL THING!
*FX SLAM

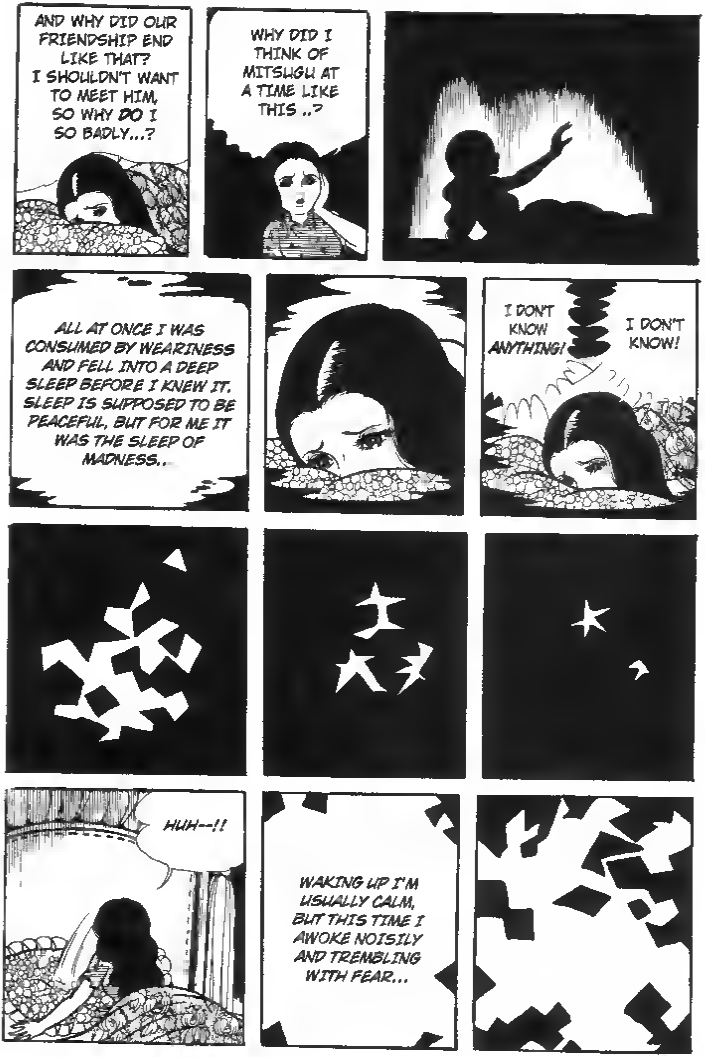

WICKED CHILD! YOU CAN SCRATCH AND KICK ME ALL YOU WANT, BUT I'LL NEVER BUDGE!
バタン
*FX SLAM
カチャ
*FX CLICK

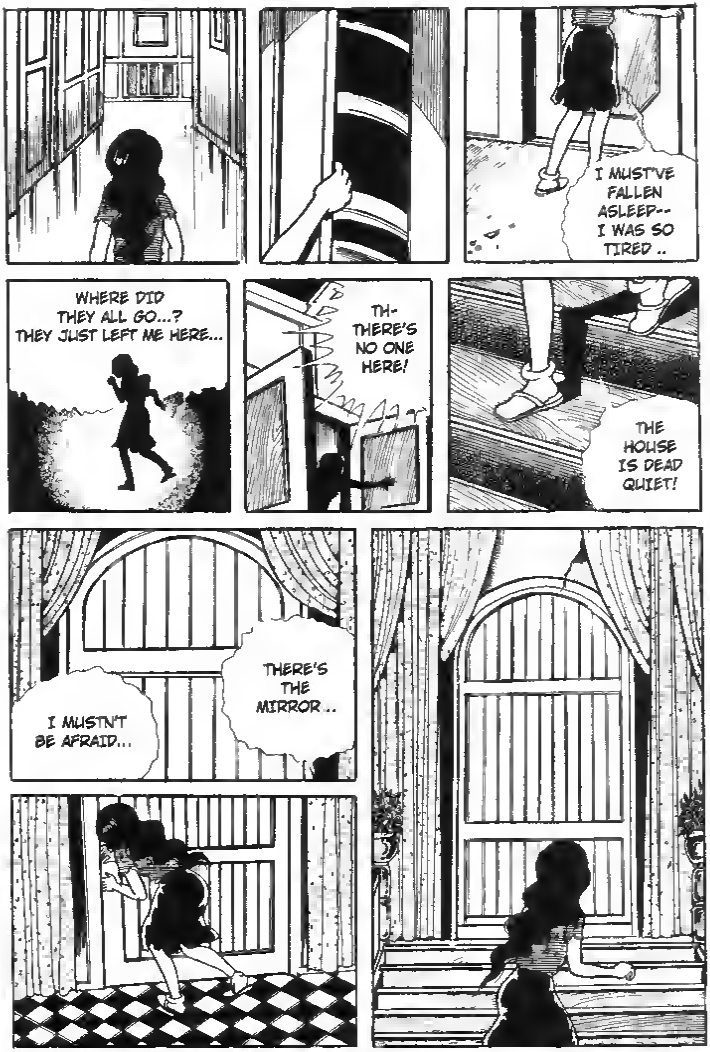
WHEN I LOOKED IN THE MIRROR I THOUGHT I WAS PRETTY, AND MAYBE I JUST PROJECTED THAT CONFIDENCE TO OTHERS...
MAYBE IT'S TRUE-- I'M NOT REALLY BEAUTIFUL AFTER ALL!
BUT IF THE ME IN THE MIRROR WASN'T REALLY ME AT ALL,
I THINK-- I THINK... I'M GOING INSANE!
THAT'S RIGHT... YOU AREN'T BEAUTIFUL... YOU'RE NOTHING!


*FX HAHAHAHAHAHA
AAH!!
NOOO!!
AND YOU'RE GETTING UGLIER!
YOU'RE GOING TOTALLY INSANE!
*FX SMASH

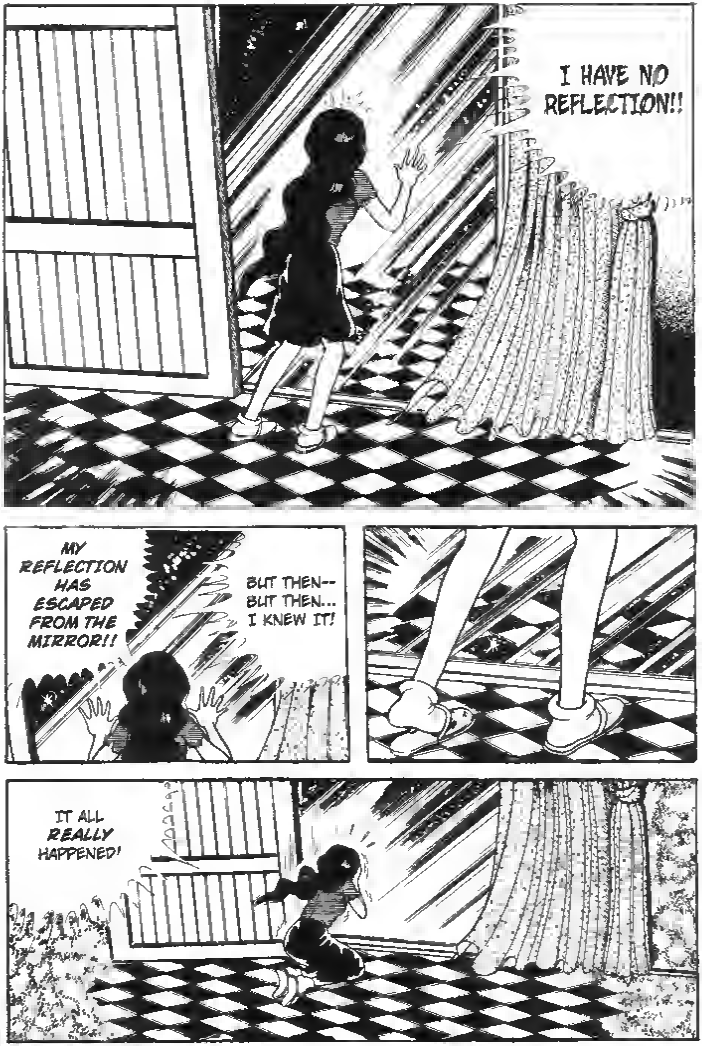
*FX. HAHAHAHAHA
-HUH!-
-HUH!-
AAH!
I CAN'T LOOK AT THEM!
I'M SCARED!
MIRRORS THERE... AND THERE, TOO...
MIRRORS...
*FX. SMASH SMASH

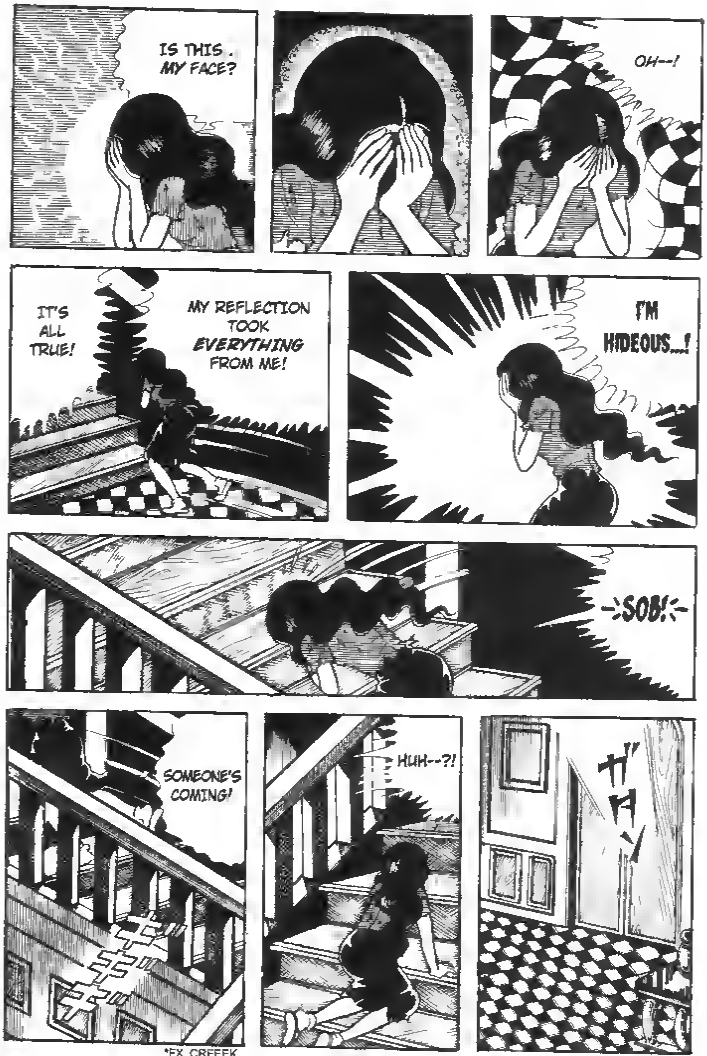

SCARED-- SCARED OF MYSELF...
I'M SO SCARED
I CAN'T EVEN TRUST MYSELF!
*FX HAH HAH
はあ はあ
MITSUGU...
-:HMPH!:-


AND WHY DID OUR FRIENDSHIP END LIKE THAT? I SHOULDN'T WANT TO MEET HIM, SO WHY DO I SO BADLY...?
WHY DID I THINK OF MITSUGU AT A TIME LIKE THIS ..?
ALL AT ONCE I WAS CONSUMED BY WEARINESS AND FELL INTO A DEEP SLEEP BEFORE I KNEW IT. SLEEP IS SUPPOSED TO BE PEACEFUL, BUT FOR ME IT WAS THE SLEEP OF MADNESS..
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!
I DON'T KNOW!
HUH--!!
WAKING UP I'M USUALLY CALM, BUT THIS TIME I AWOKE NOISILY AND TREMBLING WITH FEAR...


I MUST'VE FALLEN ASLEEP-- I WAS SO TIRED ..
WHERE DID THEY ALL GO...? THEY JUST LEFT ME HERE...
TH- THERE'S NO ONE HERE!
THE HOUSE IS DEAD QUIET!
I MUSTN'T BE AFRAID...
THERE'S THE MIRROR ..

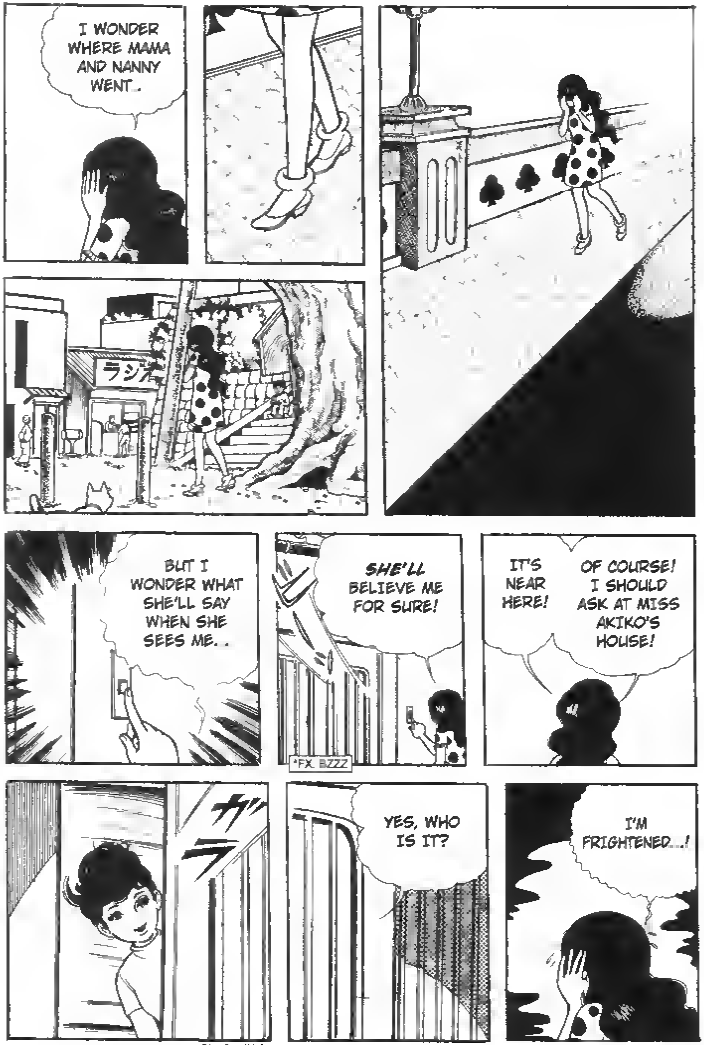
*FX CLUNK
IF.. IF IT'S ALL REALLY TRUE, THEN MY REFLECTION IN THE MIRROR. .
AAH!!


I HAVE NO REFLECTION!!
MY REFLECTION HAS ESCAPED FROM THE MIRROR!!
BUT THEN-- BUT THEN... I KNEW IT!
IT ALL REALLY HAPPENED!

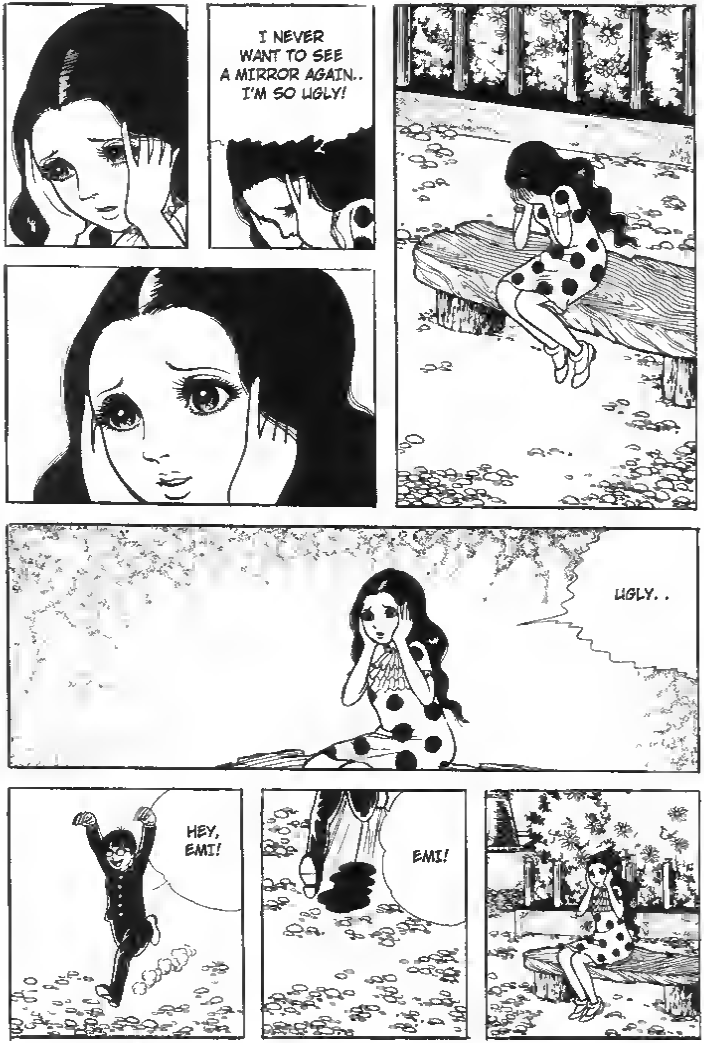

IS THIS . MY FACE?
OH--!
IT'S ALL TRUE!
MY REFLECTION TOOK EVERYTHING FROM ME!
I'M HIDEOUS...!
-SOB!-
SOMEONE'S COMING!
*FX. CREEEK
HUH--?!
*FX. SLAM!

*FX CREAK
I'M SURE SHE MUST STILL BE SLEEPING!
SHE'S IN THE ROOM AT THE BACK, DOCTOR.
THEY'RE HERE TO TAKE ME AWAY!
MADAM COLLAPSED FROM THE SHOCK!
PLEASE TAKE HER AWAY TO THE HOSPITAL!
I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A FRIGHTFUL CHILD! SHE'S MAD! SHE PRACTICALLY WRECKED THE HOUSE!
BUT, I MUST ADMIT, I LOVE THE THRILL OF IT ALL!

-HUH?-
-HUH?-
SHE WAS A DREADFUL GIRL!
YOUNG MISS, THAT FRIGHTFUL CHILD IS GONE NOW!
SHE WON'T GET AWAY NEXT TIME!
PLEASE BE SURE TO LOCK YOUR DOORS
HOW VERY ODD! SHE MUST'VE RUN AWAY!
*FX. VROOM
*FX. SLAM


I WONDER WHERE MAMA AND NANNY WENT..
ラジオ
BUT I WONDER WHAT SHE'LL SAY WHEN SHE SEES ME..
SHE'LL BELIEVE ME FOR SURE!
*FX BZZZ
IT'S NEAR HERE!
OF COURSE! I SHOULD ASK AT MISS AKIKO'S HOUSE!
ガラ
*FX SHUNK
YES, WHO IS IT?
I'M FRIGHTENED...!

WH-WHO ARE YOU..?!
AAH!
*FX. SHUNK
LIAR! I DON'T KNOW YOU! GO HOME, YOU NASTY GIRL...! YOU DON'T LOOK A BIT LIKE EMI!
IT'S ME! EMI!
WOOF WOOF
I KNEW IT!
THAT PERSON YOU TOLD ME ABOUT WAS HERE! I DID WHAT YOU TOLD ME-- SHE LOOKED SCARED WHEN I LIED AND SAID SHE DIDN'T LOOK LIKE YOU!
HELLO? EMI?
AH! THAT WAS CLOSE!


I NEVER WANT TO SEE A MIRROR AGAIN.. I'M SO UGLY!
UGLY. .
HEY, EMI!
EMI!

*FX ("SOUND" OF FACE TURNING RED)
IT'S ME, WAKATONO!
ぽわーん
HUH?
YOU KEPT YOUR DATE PROMISE AFTER ALL!
YOU AND YOUR EXCUSES AGAIN! YOU'RE TERRIBLE! TERRIBLE! JOKE ALL YOU WANT-- BEAUTY NEVER LIES!
HUH?!
I'M NOT EMI.
*FX THUNK
URK!!
WAIT!
YOU'RE TERRIBLE! LIES AGAIN!
I'M NOT BEAUTIFUL.
ACK!!
SEE WHAT YOU GET IN RETURN!
YOU THINK YOU CAN GET RID OF ME?!
*FX THUNK

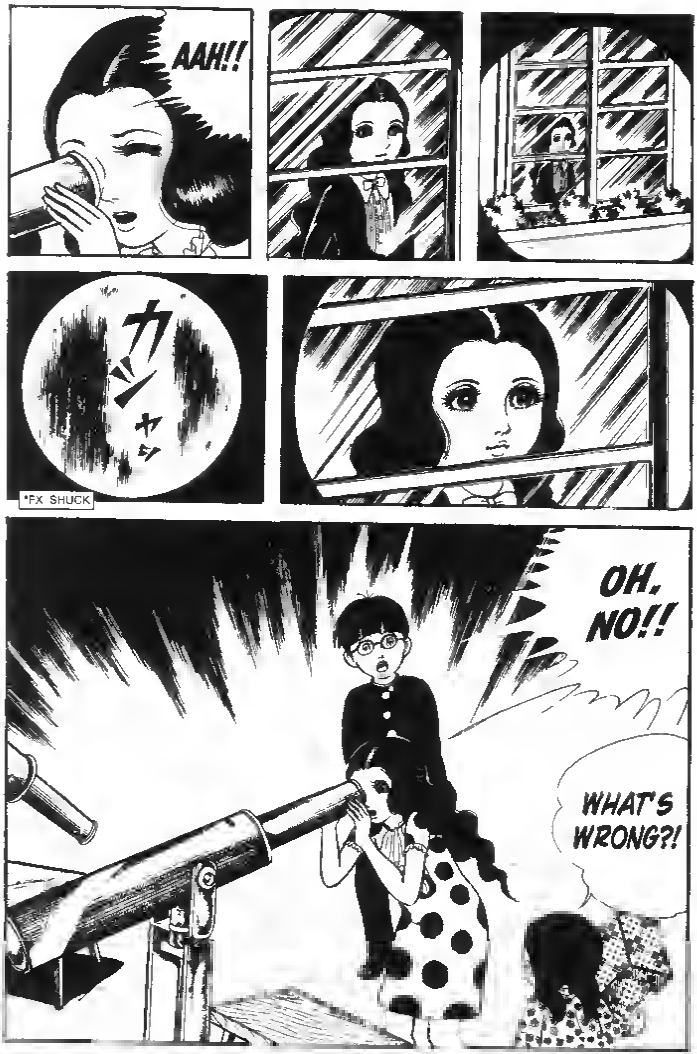
AND THAT YOU'RE GOING BALD!
I'LL TELL 'EM YOUR BELLY BUTTON'S AN OUTIE!
WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO A DEPARTMENT STORE, BUT THEN SHE WENT CRAZY AND SAID SHE'S GONNA TELL EVERYONE ALL MY SECRETS!
P-PLEASE HELP! THAT'S MY SISTER MITSUKO!
WHACK!
SHUT UP!
PLEASE NO MORE! NOT IN FRONT OF EMI!
SHE SAID IT!!
I GET TO DECIDE WHETHER YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S GOOD OR BAD!
THAT WAS JUST MY VOICE-- NO ROCK!
GET A GRIP, STUPID!
OUCH!!
SILENCE! YOU ALWAYS FALL IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT, SO I HAVE TO KNOW!
EMI, PLEASE JUST IGNORE HER!

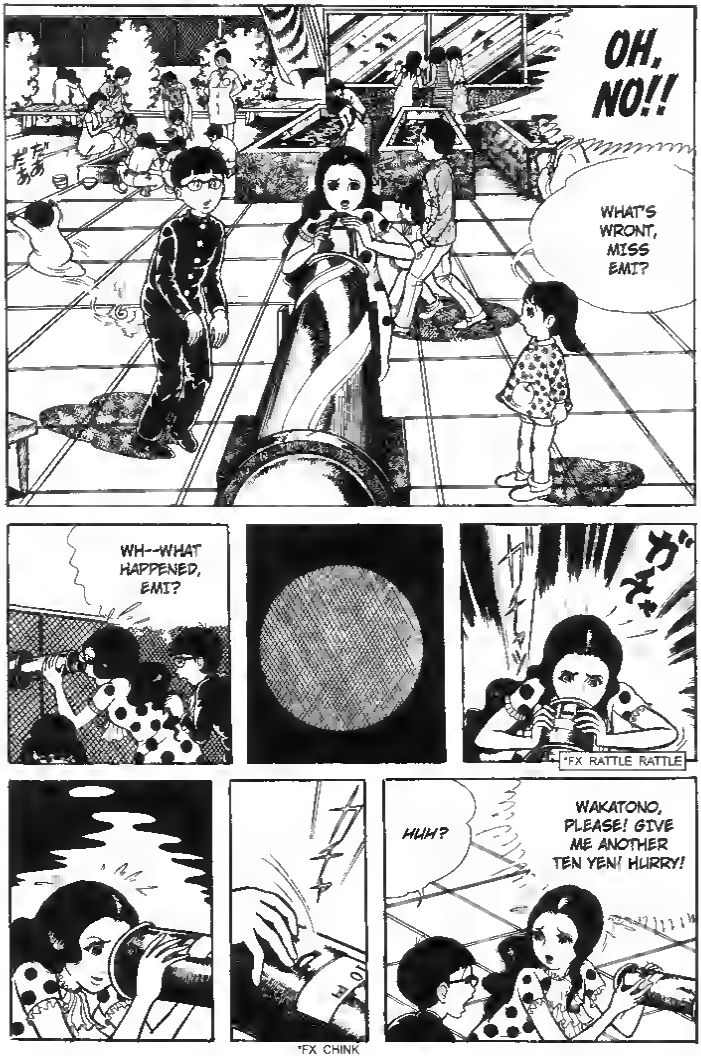
AAH!
*FX ("SOUND" OF FACE TURNING RED)
GRANDMA SAID IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY!
MINE'S AN OUTIE, TOO!
AH!
TEE HEE!

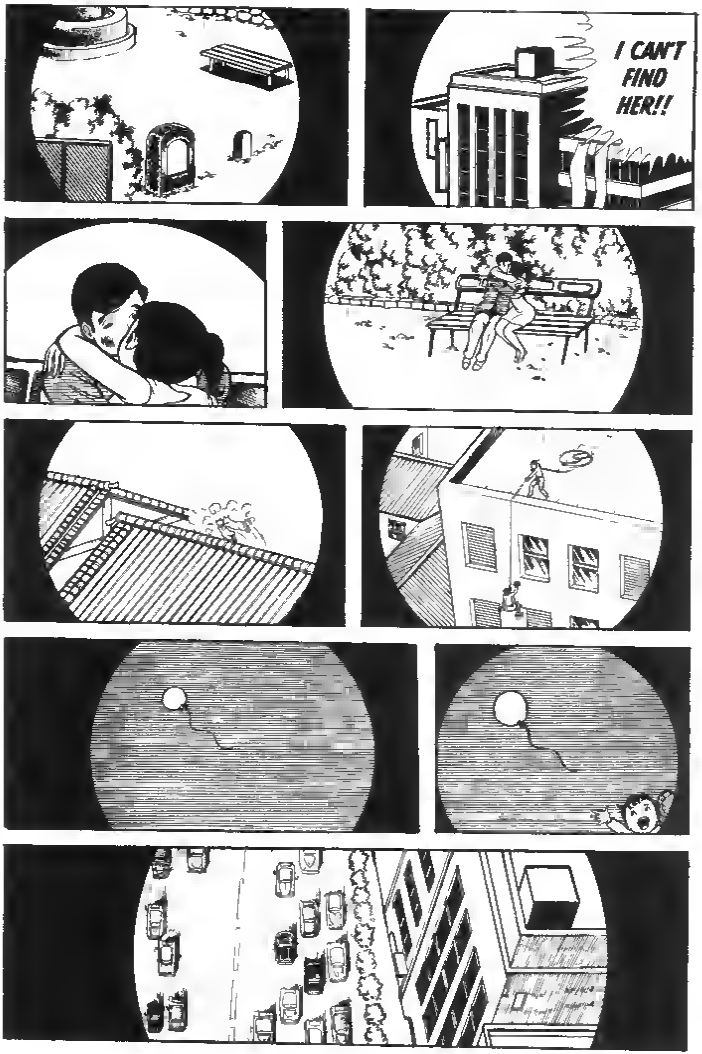
HUH?
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME SHE WAS PRETTY SOONER?! STUPID!
WH-WHAT?!
YOW!
STUPID! STUPID! STUPID!
SORRY 'BOUT THIS, EMI!
B-BUT I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU THAT ALL ALONG! MITSUKO, YOU NEVER BELIEVED ME!
OH...
NO TOUCHING, BROTHER!
-:ACK:--!
DON'T TOUCH HER!!
LET'S GO! LET'S GO! TO BUY DOLLS AT THE DEPARTMENT STORE!
I LIKE YOU...

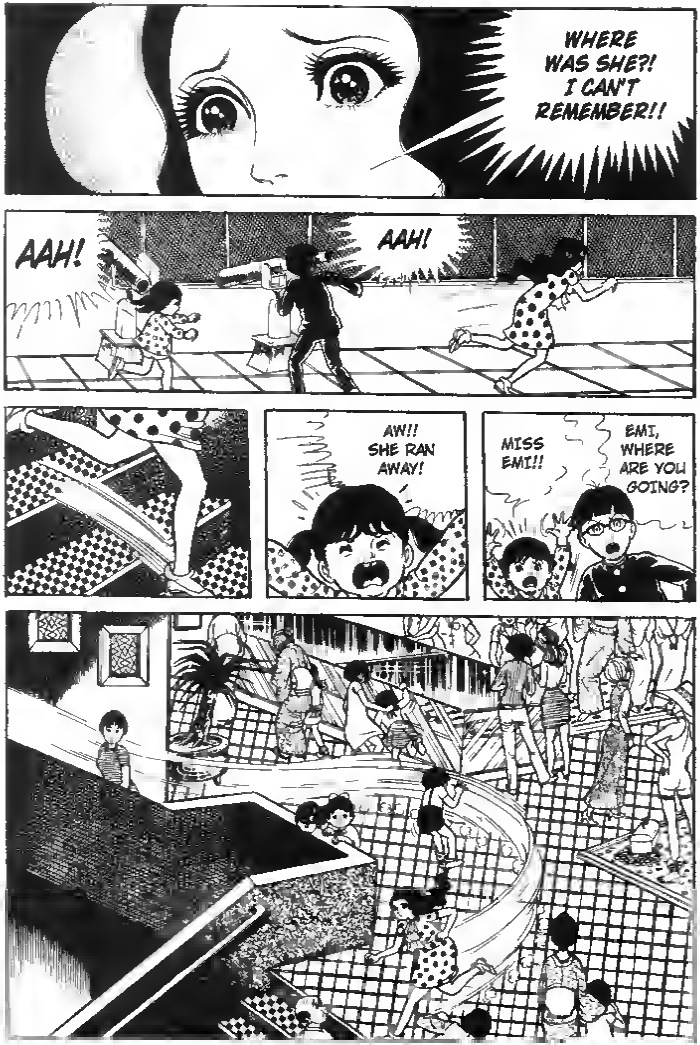
*FX. GLARE
じろり
SAY WHAT?!
I HAVE A REQUEST, TOO. YOU TWO GO I DON'T WANNA DIE!
AH! THIS AIN'T RIGHT!!
LET'S GO! LET'S GO!
グイッ
*FX. SQUEEZE
WH-WHAT IS THIS?!

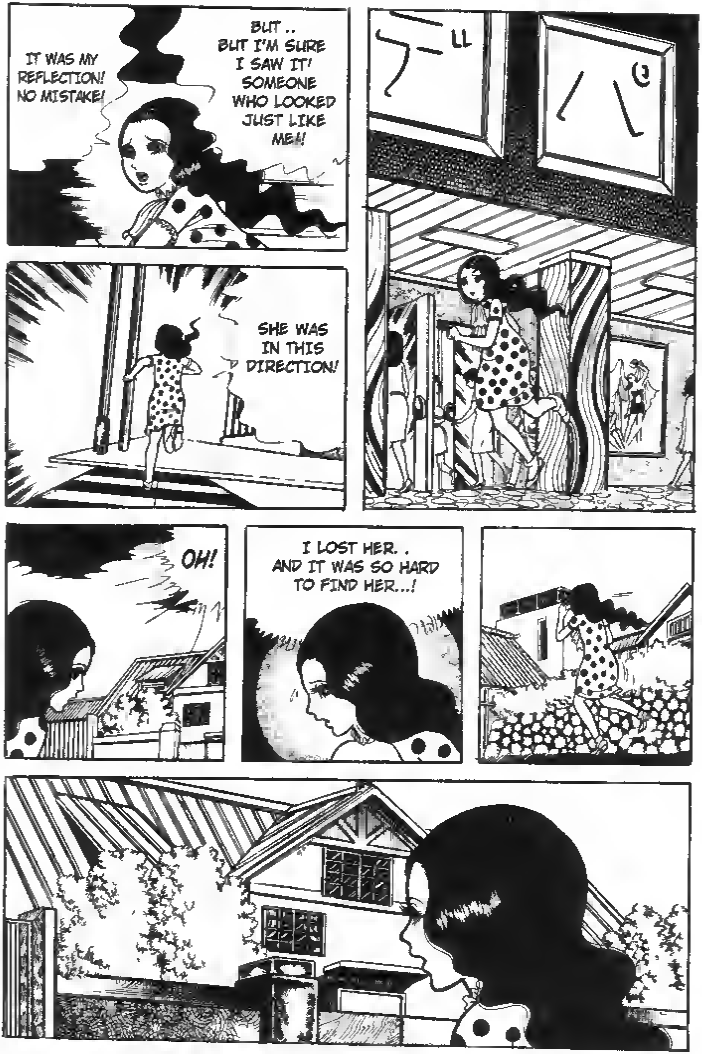
*Sign DEPARTMENT STORE
YAY! WE GOT SO MANY LOVELY DOLLS!
デパート
I KNEW THAT EXTREME MENTAL ANXIETY, CONFUSION, AND OVER-EXCITEMENT WOULD RESULT IN DEMENTIA. SO I DECIDED TO WORDLESSLY GO ALONG WITH THESE UNEXPECTED FRIENDS.
*FX. HOORAY!
OKAY.
MISS EMI, LET'S GO UP TO THE ROOF!
OKAY!
MISS EMI, YOU LOOK! EVERYTHING'S REAL BIG!
YAY! YAY!
BROTHER, PUT IN TEN YEN!
YOU CAN SEE THE CITY WITH THIS!
HOSPITAL
LOOK QUICK BEFORE THE TIME RUNS OUT!

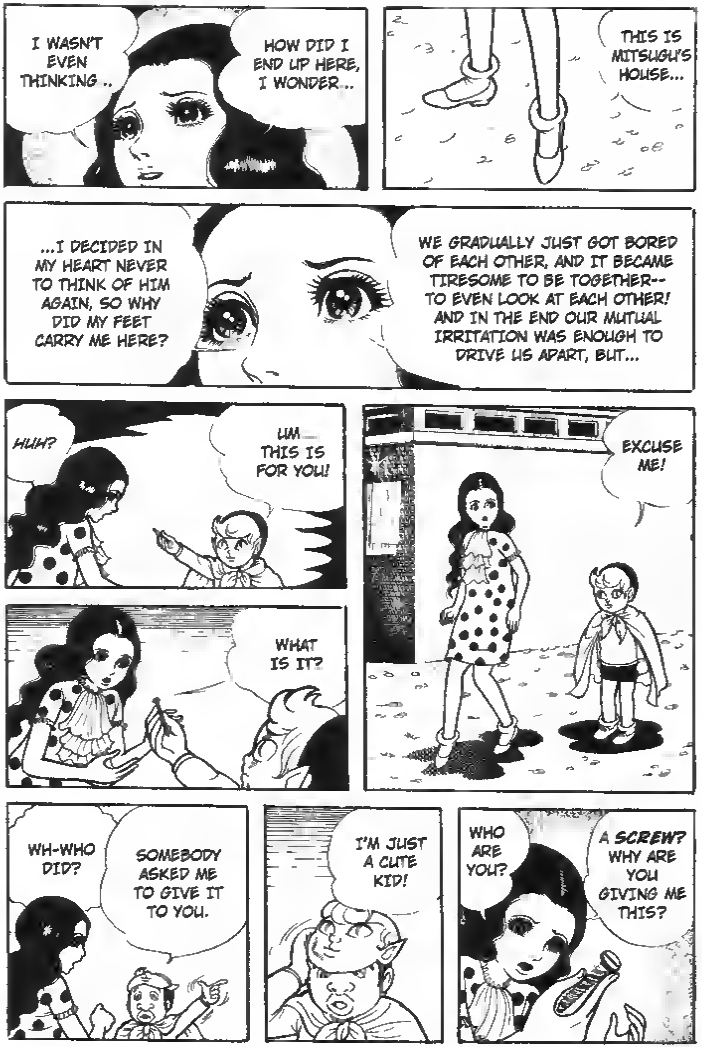

AAH!!
カンヤシ
*FX SHUCK
OH, NO!!
WHAT'S WRONG?!


OH, NO!!
WHAT'S WRONT, MISS EMI?
WH--WHAT HAPPENED, EMI?
*FX RATTLE RATTLE
HUH?
WAKATONO, PLEASE! GIVE ME ANOTHER TEN YEN! HURRY!
*FX CHINK

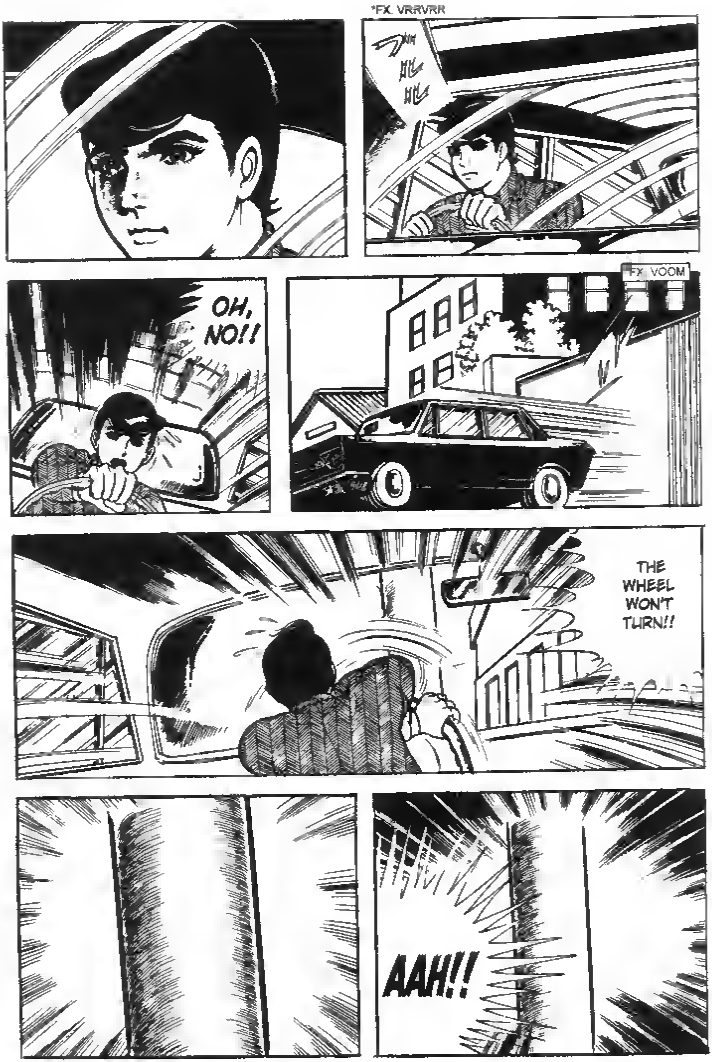

I CAN'T FIND HER!!


WHERE WAS SHE?! I CAN'T REMEMBER!!
AAH!
AAH!
AW!! SHE RAN AWAY!
MISS EMI!!
EMI, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?


IT WAS MY REFLECTION! NO MISTAKE!
BUT.. BUT I'M SURE I SAW IT! SOMEONE WHO LOOKED JUST LIKE ME!!
SHE WAS IN THIS DIRECTION!
OH!
I LOST HER.. AND IT WAS SO HARD TO FIND HER...!


I WASN'T EVEN THINKING ..
HOW DID I END UP HERE, I WONDER...
THIS IS MITSUGU'S HOUSE...
...I DECIDED IN MY HEART NEVER TO THINK OF HIM AGAIN, SO WHY DID MY FEET CARRY ME HERE?
WE GRADUALLY JUST GOT BORED OF EACH OTHER, AND IT BECAME TIRESOME TO BE TOGETHER-- TO EVEN LOOK AT EACH OTHER! AND IN THE END OUR MUTUAL IRRITATION WAS ENOUGH TO DRIVE US APART, BUT...
HUH?
UM— THIS IS FOR YOU!
EXCUSE ME!
WHAT IS IT?
WH-WHO DID?
SOMEBODY ASKED ME TO GIVE IT TO YOU.
I'M JUST A CUTE KID!
WHO ARE YOU?
A SCREW? WHY ARE YOU GIVING ME THIS?

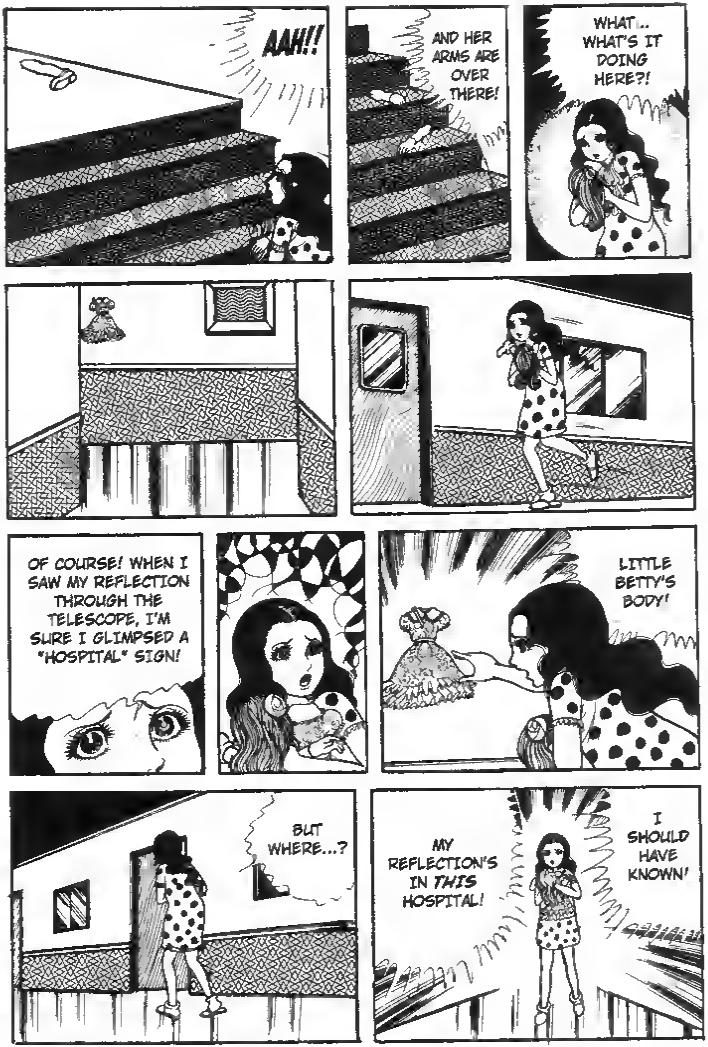
WHAT?!
SEE YA!
SO I DIDN'T SEE HER FACE!
A GIRL KINDA LIKE YOU! BUT I WAS PLAYING MONSTERS AND WEARING THIS MASK--
AND SHE CAME OUT WEARING A MASK, TOO!
AAH!
*FX VRRVRR
"A GIRL LIKE ME"...
WHY THIS...?! HOW CREEPY...
IT'S MITSUGU!
*FX VRRVRR
*FX VRRVRRVRR

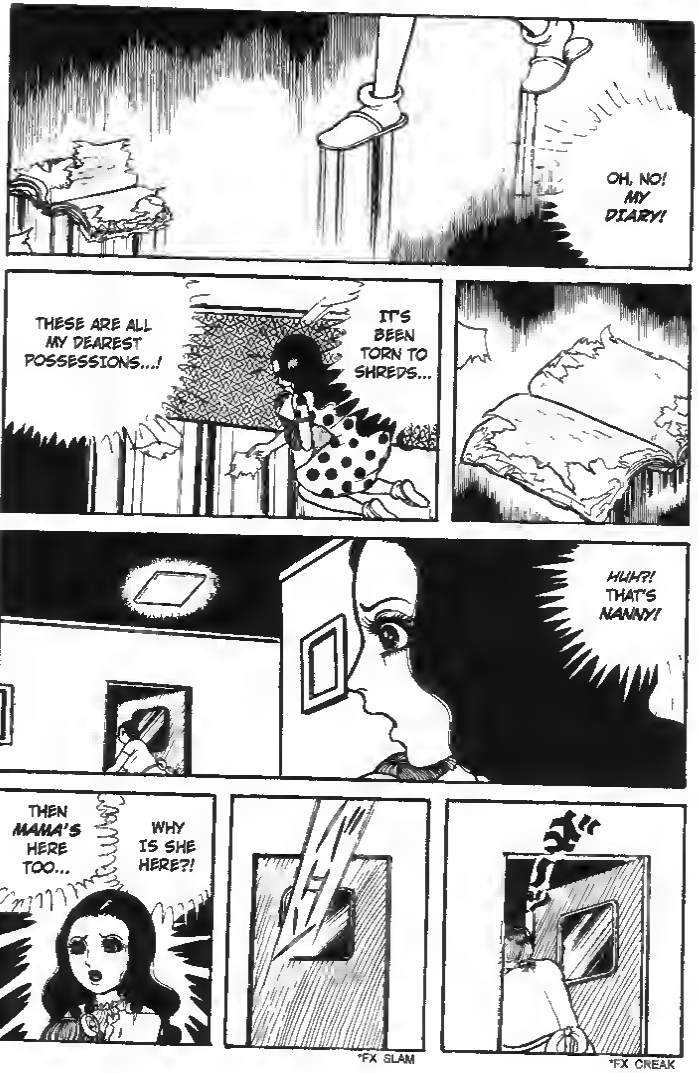

*FX. VRRVRR
OH, NO!!
FX. VOOM
THE WHEEL WON'T TURN!!
AAH!!

*FX CRASH
MITSUGU!!
THE CAR ACCIDENT VICTIM'S OVER HERE!!
*FX WOO WOO
S-SOMEONE!!

NO WONDER THIS HAPPENED! THERE'S A SCREW MISSING FROM THE STEERING WHEEL! SOMEBODY DID THIS DELIBERATELY!
I'M SURE IT WAS THE VOICE OF A YOUNG GIRL!
EXACTLY LIKE THEY SAID IN THE PHONE CALL! HE'S INJURED!
CENTRAL HOSPITAL
*FX VROOM
*Sign CENTRAL HOSPITAL
THIS IS THE SCREW!!
OF COURSE! THAT MUST BE IT IT'S HER! MY REFLECTION FROM THE MIRROR--SHE DID THIS!
WHAT IS THIS?! HOW COULD ANYONE DO SOMETHING SO TERRIBLE
SOMEONE'S TRYING TO FRAME ME! THEY EVEN INJURED MITSUGU!
IT WASN'T ME!
中央病院
*SIGN CENTRAL HOSPITAL

I DON'T LIKE SNEAKING INTO THE HOSPITAL LIKE THIS, BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT MITSUGU. . WHICH ROOM IS HE IN? HIS FAMILY IS OUT, SO NONE OF THEM KNOW ABOUT THIS YET!
HE WASN'T GOING THAT FAST.
I HOPE MITSUGU'S OKAY AND NOT HURT TOO BADLY.
AAH!!
THIS DOLL--!!
MY PRECIOUS BETTY FROM WHEN I WAS LITTLE!
THIS IS MY DOLL!!


AAH!!
AND HER ARMS ARE OVER THERE!
WHAT... WHAT'S IT DOING HERE?!
OF COURSE! WHEN I SAW MY REFLECTION THROUGH THE TELESCOPE, I'M SURE I GLIMPSED A "HOSPITAL" SIGN!
LITTLE BETTY'S BODY!
BUT WHERE...?
MY REFLECTION'S IN *THIS* HOSPITAL!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN!


OH, NO! MY DIARY!
THESE ARE ALL MY DEAREST POSSESSIONS...!
IT'S BEEN TORN TO SHREDS...
HUH?! THAT'S NANNY!
THEN MAMA'S HERE TOO...
WHY IS SHE HERE?!
*FX SLAM
*FX CREAK

NO! IF THEY FIND ME AGAIN...
I'M UGLY NOW...
I'M NOT WHO I WAS BEFORE!
HUH?
*FX HAHAHA
*FX HAHAHAHA
NOBODY WILL EVER BELIEVE ME!
SO YOU FINALLY UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH ABOUT YOURSELF, HUH?
*FX HAHAHAHAHA

YOU?!

I KNEW IT!!
THAT'S RIGHT! YOU'RE CRAZY NOW!
I'VE GONE INSANE!
YOU CAME FROM THE MIRROR!
HAHAHA! I'VE LURED YOU TO ME SO EASILY!
EXACTLY! IT'S ME...

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY? WELL, NOW YOU KNOW! AND NOW YOU'LL ENDURE EVEN MORE SUFFERING!
WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO HATE HIM?
WHY DID YOU DO THAT TO MITSUGU...?!
YES! IT WAS ALL MY DOING!
MITSUGU... THIS DOLL... MY DIARY... YOU DID IT ALL, DIDN'T YOU...?
..AND YOU'LL GET UGLIER AND UGLIER-- EVERY LAST PART OF YOU WILL LOSE ITS BEAUTY!
WANNA KNOW? FIRST YOU'LL BEGIN FEELING STRANGER AND STRANGER..
IN BODY AND SPIRIT!
LOOK! YOU'LL FALL TO PIECES JUST LIKE YOUR DOLL AND THAT DIARY!
STOP IT!!
STOP!! WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO ME?!

ESPECIALLY YOUR FACE--
BECAUSE I DESPISE YOU!
WHY? THE REASON IS SIMPLE...
YOU'RE SO UGLY!!
AND I'M THE BEAUTIFUL EMI! YOU'RE THE UGLY EMI!!
YOU MADE THAT HAPPEN TO MITSUGU!
STOP IT!!
YOU'RE LYING!!
YOU'RE THE REFLECTION!
I'M THE REAL EMI, AND YOU'RE THE REFLECTION EMI!

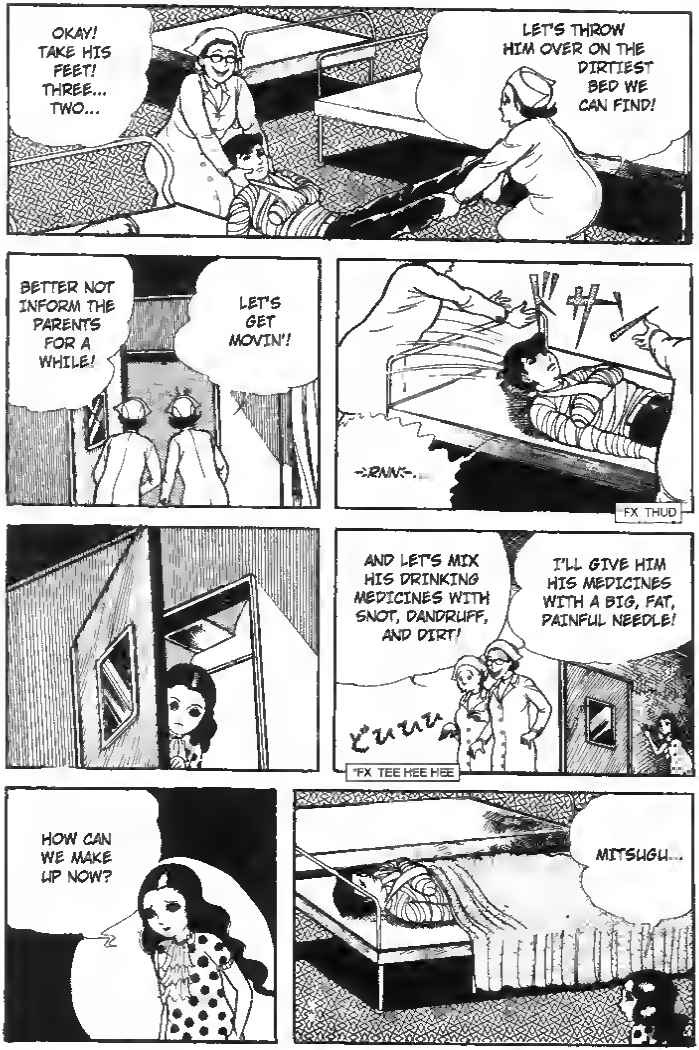
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! I DON'T BELIEVE ANY OF IT!
EVERYTHING THAT WAS YOURS IS NOW MINE, INCLUDING MAMA AND MITSUGU!
NO ONE WILL BE YOUR FRIEND ANYMORE!
OH, YOU BELIEVE IT-- YOU'RE JUST TOO SCARED TO ACCEPT IT! THAT'S WHY YOU'RE DENYING IT! EVERY TIME YOU CRY OUT "I DON'T BELIEVE IT," YOU'RE JUST GRASPING AT STRAWS! BUT YOU'D NEVER UNDERSTAND THAT! YOU CAN'T FIGURE ANYTHING OUT, YOU STUPID FOOL!
HAHAHA! THE MORE YOU DENY IT IS JUST MORE PROOF THAT YOU DO BELIEVE IT!
NOT THAT I CARE FOR YOUR MOTHER OR MITSUGU, .
YOUR POPULARITY, YOUR BEAUTY, YOUR MOTHER, MITSUGU-- ALL MINE!
YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING LEFT ANYMORE!
WAIT!!
*FX: HAHAHAHA

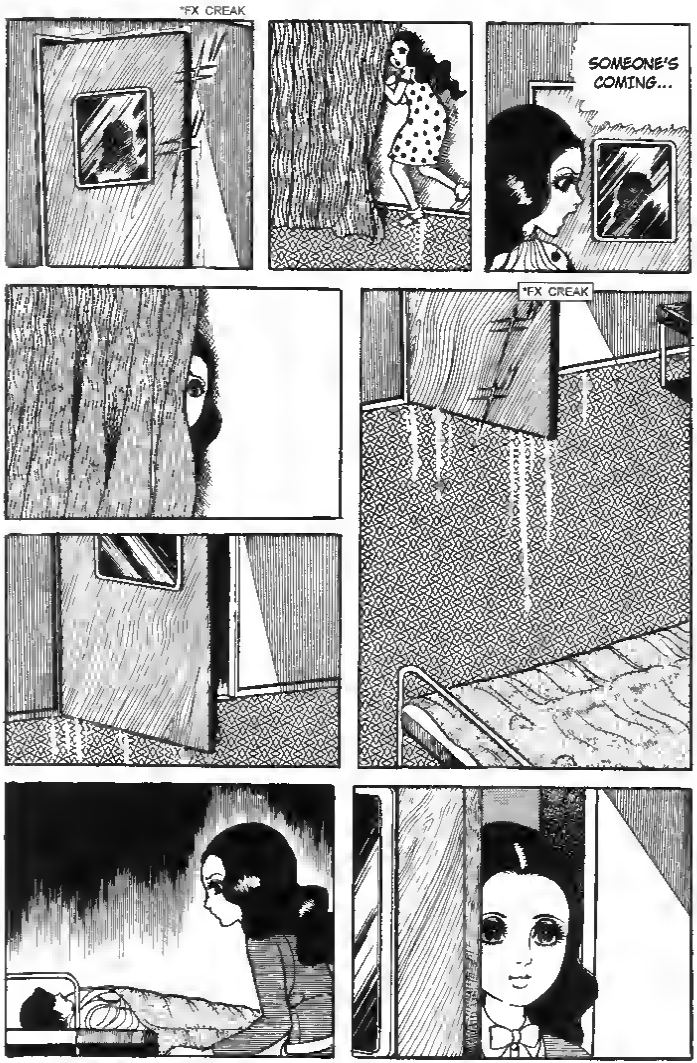
*FX SLAM
EVERYONE'S IN THERE!
THROUGH THAT WINDOW...
AAH!!
YOU WANNA TAKE A LOOK INSIDE, DON'T YOU?
*FX FSSH

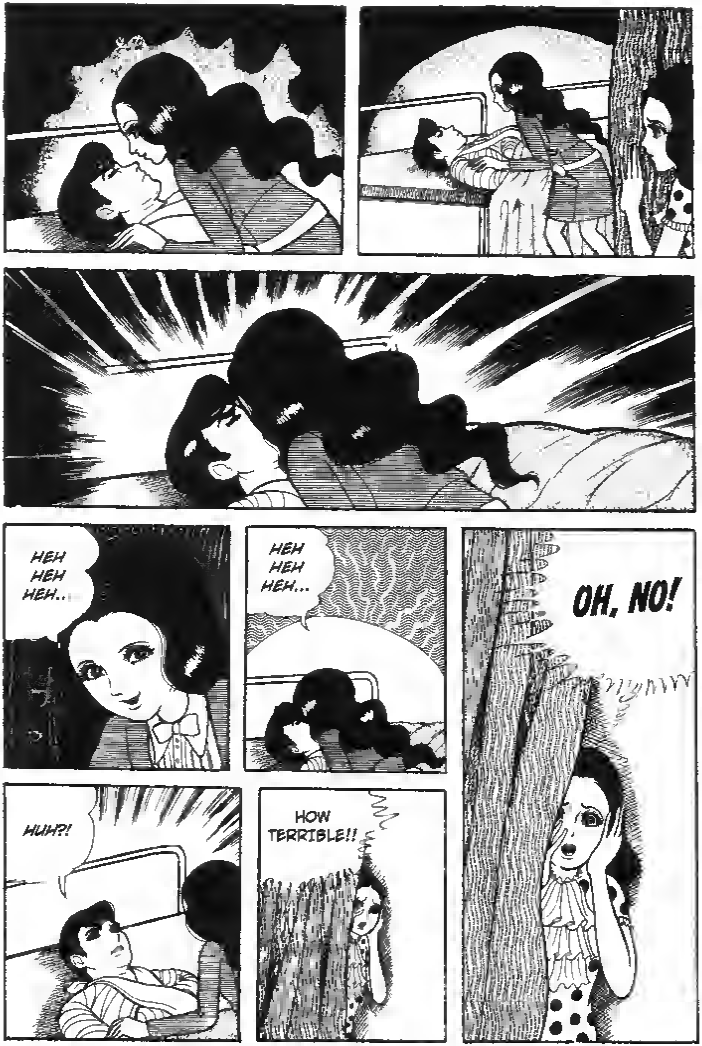
I TRIED TO RESIST GOING MAD... I ABHORRED THE THOUGHT OF BECOMING WHAT MY REFLECTION THREATENED, BUT I WASN'T ABLE TO FIGHT HER. SOMEHOW I BROUGHT MYSELF TO LOOK THROUGH THE WINDOW...
WHERE WERE YOU, EMI?
NOWHERE, MAMA. I JUST OPENED THE WINDOW A BIT.

OH, HEAVENS! BUT THAT HORRIBLE GIRL IS LONG GONE NOW!
I CAN STILL HEAR HER CONSTANT SCREAMING!
MORE IMPORTANTLY, HOW DO *YOU* FEEL, MADAM?
MAMA...
PLEASE DON'T TALK ABOUT HER ANYMORE! IT'S MAKING ME SICK!
WE'RE GONNA BE BUSY NURSING YOU *BOTH* NOW!
YOU KNOW WHAT? MITSUGU'S BEEN HOSPITALIZED HERE, TOO!
HOW TERRIBLE...!
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING ...

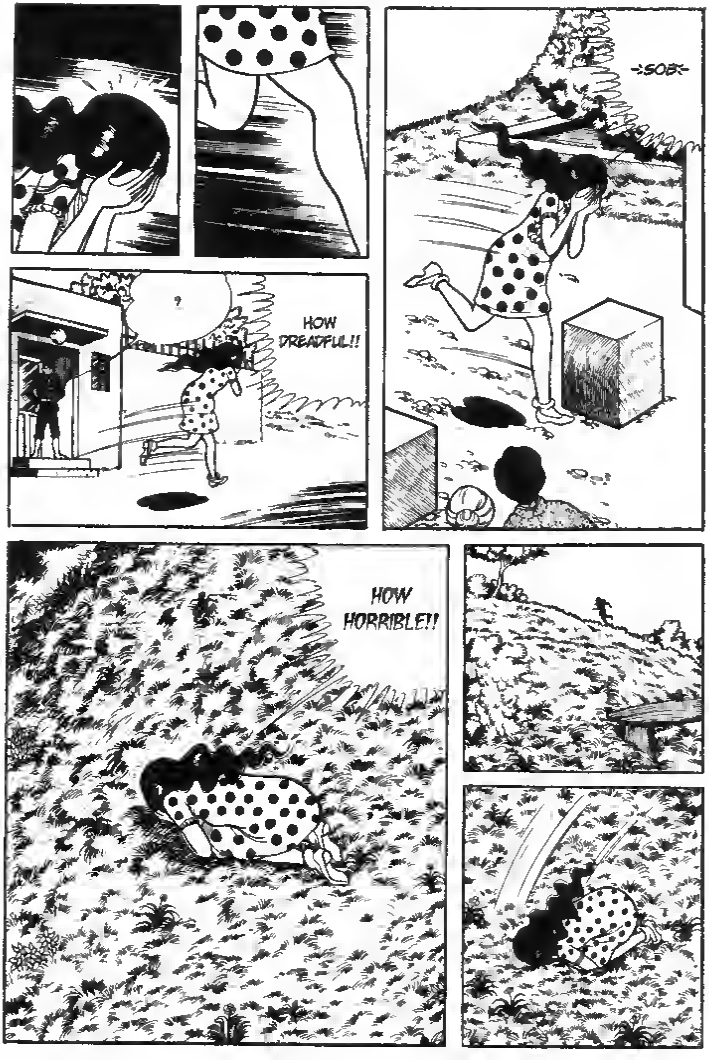
I'M SO UGLY...!
OH!!
HUH?!
QUIET IN THE HALLS PLEASE!
*FX CLACK CLACK
MITSUGU!
*FX CLACK CLACK
I ENJOY MAKIN' REAL BIG SURGICAL CUTS ON CRAZY KIDS LIKE THIS!
I HEAR HE GOT INJURED IN SOME KINDA CAR WRECK!

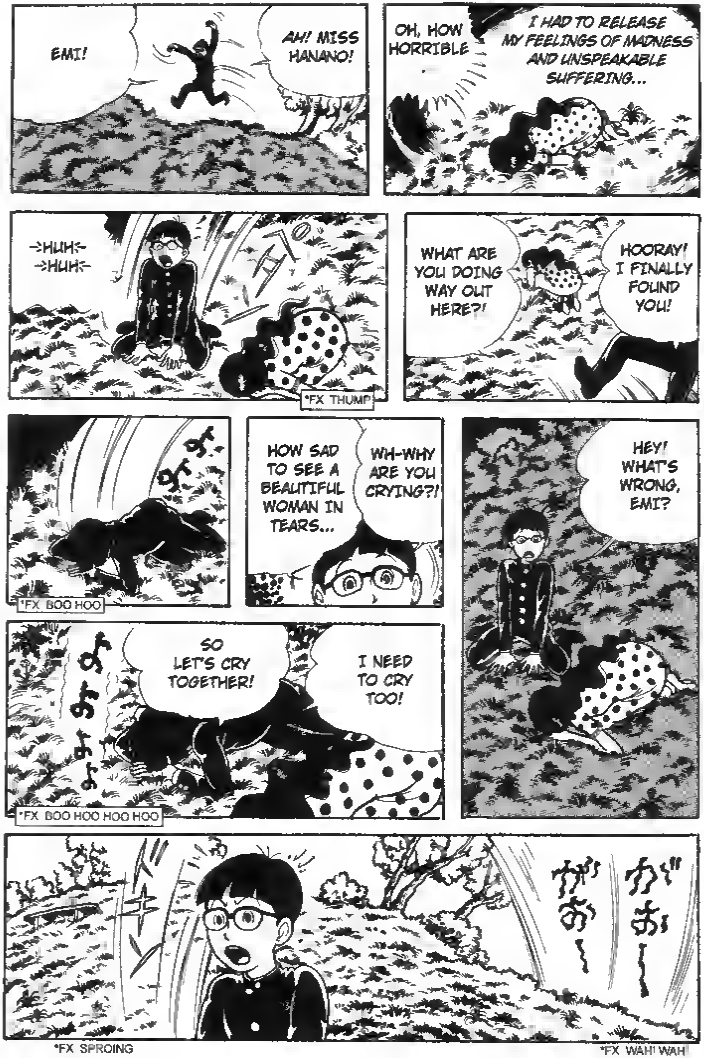

OKAY! TAKE HIS FEET! THREE... TWO...
LET'S THROW HIM OVER ON THE DIRTIEST BED WE CAN FIND!
BETTER NOT INFORM THE PARENTS FOR A WHILE!
LET'S GET MOVIN'!
-:RNN:-...
FX THUD
AND LET'S MIX HIS DRINKING MEDICINES WITH SNOT, DANDRUFF, AND DIRT!
I'LL GIVE HIM HIS MEDICINES WITH A BIG, FAT, PAINFUL NEEDLE!
FX TEE HEE HEE
HOW CAN WE MAKE UP NOW?
MITSUGU...


*FX CREAK
SOMEONE'S COMING...
*FX CREAK


HEH HEH HEH..
HEH HEH HEH...
OH, NO!
HUH?!
HOW TERRIBLE!!

HAHAHA! NO MOVING, NOW! YOU'RE INJURED!
OUCH!!
ACK!
YOU OKAY, MITSUGU? IT'S ME! EMI!
WHERE AM I?!
HAHA! NO, NO, NO! YOU LISTEN TO ME! HAVE SOME WATER--
LET GO OF ME!
WHAT A COINCIDENCE YOUR BEING HERE! I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU!
HERE'S A PRESENT!
BUT I'M GLAD IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS!
-SOB-


-SOB-
?
HOW DREADFUL!!
HOW HORRIBLE!!


EMI!
AH! MISS HANANO!
OH, HOW HORRIBLE
I HAD TO RELEASE MY FEELINGS OF MADNESS AND UNSPEAKABLE SUFFERING...
→HUH←
→HUH←
*FX THUMP
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WAY OUT HERE?!
HOORAY! I FINALLY FOUND YOU!
*FX BOO HOO
HOW SAD TO SEE A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN TEARS...
WH-WHY ARE YOU CRYING?!
HEY! WHAT'S WRONG, EMI?
SO LET'S CRY TOGETHER!
I NEED TO CRY TOO!
*FX BOO HOO HOO HOO
*FX SPROING
*FX WAH! WAH!

SHE'S BEEN CRYING EVER SINCE YOU RAN OFF, EMI!
LOOK AT MY SCARS!
LISTEN! THAT'S MY SISTER MITSUKO CRYING! MITSUKO'S CRYING TOO!
SHE'S HERE!
WAAH!
WAAH!
SHE'S HERE!
がぁ
がぁ
*FX: WAH! WAH!
SHE SAID YOU RAN OFF BECAUSE I HURT YOUR FEELINGS, SO SHE SCRATCHED AND PUNCHED ME!
HUH?!
BWAAAH!
EEP!
IT'S MISS EMI!
SHE'S HERE!

*FX THUD THUD
HM?
*FX THUD THUD THUD
SH... SHE'S CRYING!
H-H-H-HELP!! I SWEAR IT WASN'T ME!!
*FX SCRATCH SCRATCH THUMP
AIEE!!
YOU TEASED HER AGAIN!!
YOWCH!
AS IF! YOU'RE ALWAYS TEASING HER!!
*FX CHOMP
IT WASN'T ME!!
LIAR! YOU WERE BEING MEAN AGAIN! GET AWAY FROM HER! FURTHER!

ALL RIGHT! CROSS THIS LINE, YOU'RE IN BIG TROUBLE, MISTER!
B-B-BUT...
AAH! SAVE ME!!
I PROTECT PRETTY GIRLS LIKE EMI FROM PERVERTS LIKE YOU!
I FIGHT FOR JUSTICE!
SHUT UP!
SILENCE!
PLEASE TELL HER THE TRUTH!
EMI, HELP ME!
AWW! IN FRONT OF EMI...!
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?!

EEK! HE CROSSED THE LINE!!
JUST TELL HER, PLEASE!
EMI!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
ACK!! HELP!!
SWINE!
LET GO!
ACK!
AAAAH--!!
NOT IN FRONT OF EMI, PLEASE!
LEGGO, I SAID!

OH...
ACK--!
OH, MY...
OOF! DISGRACED IN FRONT OF EMI...!
LIKE THAT...?
AND WHY ARE YOU OUT HERE, CRYING?
MISS EMI! WHY DID YOU RUN AWAY! I LOOKED ALL OVER FOR YOU!
HEH HEH HEH!
IT'S NO USE! ~:BOO HOO HOO!~
IT'S NO USE! I GIVE UP! NOW SHE'S SEEN THAT FACE--!
PLEASE STOP!!
AW, NO--!!
YOU WANT ME TO STRETCH MY BROTHER'S FACE AGAIN?
HUH? HUH? HAVE YOU CRIED IT ALL OUT NOW?

YOU'RE SO STUBBORN! AWWW..
I'M BEGGING YOU..
KAW! KAW!
OH, NO! IT'S GETTING DARK...!
WELL, NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE SOMETHING LIKE THAT THEY'D THINK I'VE GONE MAD, WOULDN'T THEY?
I GUESS YOU WOULD NEVER BELIEVE WHAT I HAVE TO SAY, BUT...
WHAT'S WRONG...?

EEK! SORRY!
YOU SAID WHAT I WAS GONNA SAY FIRST!
AH! SHUT UP!
WE'LL BELIEVE ANYTHING YOU SAY, EMI!
WH- WHAT IS IT?
WHAT IF...
WE'LL BELIEVE ANYTHING YOU SAY, MISS EMI!
IF I TOLD YOU THAT, YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME, WOULD YOU?
...YOUR OWN REFLECTION COULD ESCAPE FROM A MIRROR...
YEAH, NO WAY!
NOT A CHANCE!
I CAN'T SAY WHY, BUT I CAN'T GO BACK TO MY HOUSE TONIGHT...
IT'S NOTHING. FORGET ABOUT IT.
OH, NO! WHAT'S WRONG, MISS EMI?! YOU'VE GONE PALE!

LIKE WHEN I DON'T GET ENOUGH DINNER OR WE ARGUE ABOUT THE TV CHANNELS— IT MAKES MY HEAD SPIN!
ME TOO!
AW... FIGHT WITH THE FOLKS, HUH? I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL... YOU'RE AT THAT DIFFICULT AGE!
PRETTY! PRETTY! VERY PRETTY!
HEY, DO YOU THINK I'M PRETTY?
COME WITH US! COME TO OUR PLACE! NO ONE THERE WILL MIND!
I DON'T KNOW .
IT'S TRUE! IT'S REALLY TRUE!
I WONDER ..?
ADO?
PRETTIER THAN CHIEKO MATSUBARA, OR WAKAKO SAKAI, OR EVEN ADO MIZUMORI!
YAY! YAY! COME TO OUR HOUSE!
HOORAY!
BUT I LIKE YOU, MITSUKO!

*FX HAHAHA
はは
はは
*FX HAHAHA HAHAHA
はは
はは
はは
はは
TEE HEE HEE!
*FX HAHAHA
YAY! THAT'S THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE LAUGHED!
はは
*FX HAHAHA
I'LL MAKE YOU LAUGH EVEN MORE!
YOU'RE PRETTIER WHEN YOU LAUGH!

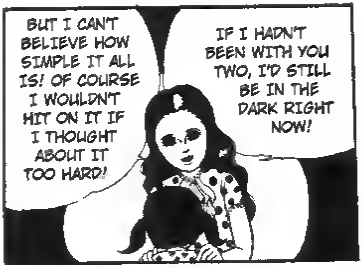
THANKS FOR WAITING!
*FX HAHAHA
OHH! IT HURTS!
はは
はは
EEP! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
READY, SET--
がはは
*FX BWAH HAHA
はは
はは
はは
*FX HAHAHA HAHAHA
A-HAHA!
SHAMELESS!!
はは
はは
*FX A-HAHA

*FX HAHAHA
SHUT UP! I'M NOT DOING THIS FOR YOU! QUIT LAUGHING!!
はは
A-HAHA!
THANKS TO YOU TWO!
THANK YOU I FEEL BETTER NOW SOMEHOW...
A SOCK!
URK!
A MIRROR
AAH!!
*FX FSSH
WELL, I GOTTA SEE IT FOR MYSELF!
WAS IT THAT FUNNY?
IT REALLY IS FUNNY!
TEE HEE HEE!

YAY! YAY!
IF I RAISE MY RIGHT HAND, IT RAISES ITS LEFT HAND!
BUT IT'S WEIRD!
HAHA! IT'S FUNNY! THE MIRROR DOES EVERYTHING I DO--
HEY, WEIRD! THE CLOCK HANDS ARE BACKWARDS TOO!
ACK! WH--WHAT'S WRONG, EMI?!
THAT'S IT!!

I WONDER WHY I DIDN'T FIGURE IT OUT SOONER...
HOW FOOLISH OF ME! IT'S ALL SO SIMPLE AND I NEVER REALIZED...
AT LAST I FIGURED IT OUT!
I FIGURED IT OUT!

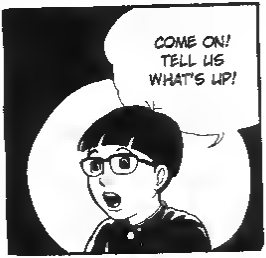
WH-WHAT'D YOU FIGURE OUT, EMI?
YOUR SCREAM SURPRISED ME!
WH-WH-WHAT HAP-PENED?!
HUH?!
ぽおーん
"T.N." ("SOUND" OF FACE TURNING RED!)
HUH?!
THANK YOU!
BEING WITH YOU TWO HAS SAVED ME!
REALLY-- THANK YOU! IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU TWO!
I'VE BEEN THINKING SO HARD UNTIL NOW! I FELT LIKE I WAS ON THE VERGE OF HITTING ON SOMETHING... BUT THE HARDER I THOUGHT ABOUT IT, THE LESS IT CAME TO ME! BUT I'VE FINALLY WORKED IT OUT!
THE HAZE IN MY HEAD HAS SUDDENLY JUST CLEARED AWAY!

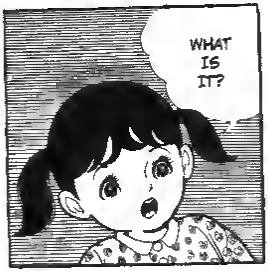

BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW SIMPLE IT ALL IS! OF COURSE I WOULDN'T HIT ON IT IF I THOUGHT ABOUT IT TOO HARD!
IF I HADN'T BEEN WITH YOU TWO, I'D STILL BE IN THE DARK RIGHT NOW!

HUH?
MITSUKO, THANK YOU! EVERYTHING IS THANKS TO YOU!

THANK YOU!

HUH--?!
LOOK AT MY FACE...


COME ON! TELL US WHAT'S UP!


WHAT IS IT?

AND TELL ME IF YOU SEE ANY DISTINGUISHING MARKS ON IT.
YOU'VE GOT LONG LASHES...
THEY'RE SO BRIGHT...
Y-Y-YOUR EYES--
N-NOW I REMEMBER! YOUR DISTINGUISHING MARK IS A BIRTH SPOT ON YOUR RIGHT EAR...
I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR FACE, EMI!
AND.. AND AWESOME LIPS, RIGHT?
A SHAPELY NOSE...

*FX GLARE
OH! DID I OFFEND YOU OR SOMETHING?
THANK YOU! THAT'S ALL I WANTED!
MITSUKO, EVERYTHING IN THE MIRROR IS REVERSED, RIGHT?
*FX BLUSH
OH, REALLY...?
THERE'S NOBODY WHO DOESN'T!
NO! I'M GLAD YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT ME!
AND THE CLOCK'S ALL BACKWARDS TOO!
IF I RAISE MY RIGHT HAND, MY REFLECTION RAISES ITS LEFT!
YUP!
LOOK! LOOK! THIS PICTURE BOOK'S BACKWARDS TOO, RIGHT?
WE'LL DO ONE MORE!
I'LL SHOW YOU!

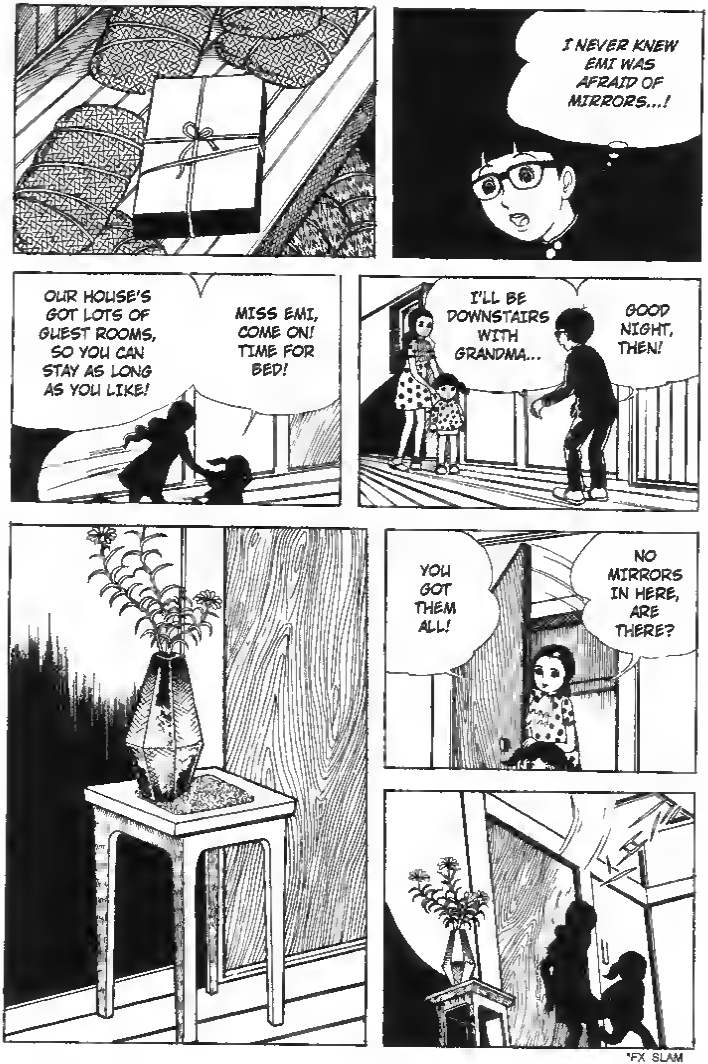
REFLECTION (backwards) PICTURE BOOK

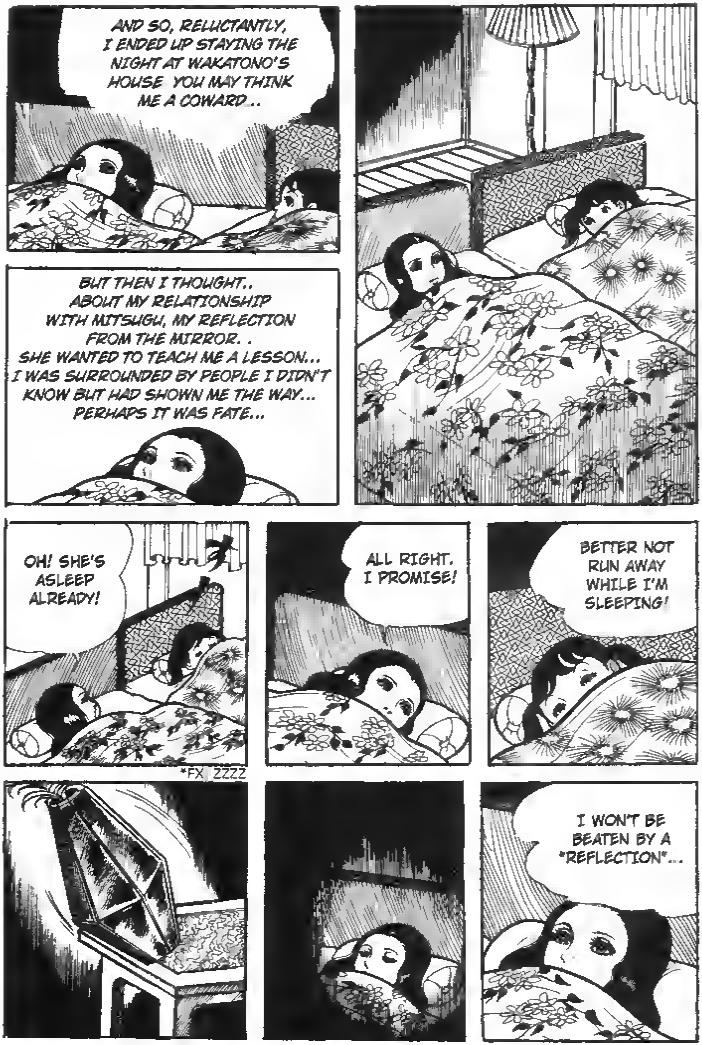
THANK YOU!
THAT'S PLENTY!
REFLECTION (heckwards) PICTURE BOOK
SEE! SEE!
NOW I KNOW THAT MY REFLECTION AND I ARE NOT THE SAME!
...A GREAT, BLACK CLOUD WAS LIFTED FROM INSIDE ME!
WHEN I REALIZED THAT EVERYTHING UNTIL THAT POINT-- MY FALLING INTO THAT GREAT POOL OF FEAR-- HAD ALL BEEN THE RESULT OF MY OWN ANXIETIES...

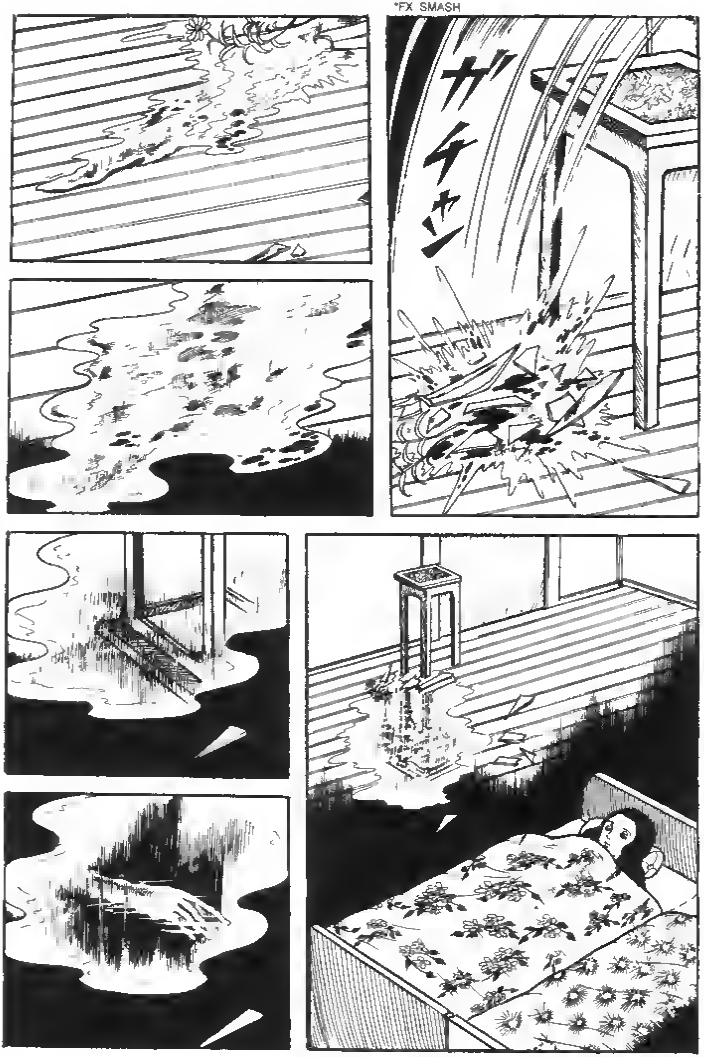
N-NO WAY!
YAY! I WANT TO SLEEP IN MISS EMI'S BED!
ANYWAY, MITSUKO, IT'S ALREADY TIME FOR BED!
YAY! MISS EMI'S SUDDENLY HAPPY! YOUR FACE IS SOOO BRIGHT! MY DIRTY JOKES DID THE TRICK!
OH, YEAH!
B-BUT, MITSUKO, YOU'VE ALWAYS GOT... THAT PROBLEM, RIGHT?
TAKE THIS!!
WHY NOT?!
ACK!

D-DID YOU JUST SEE...?!
THIS...?
HUH...?
PLEASE GET RID OF THAT MIRROR SOMEWHERE!
LIKE THIS?
WHAT?!
AND COVER IT.. SO I CAN'T SEE IT!

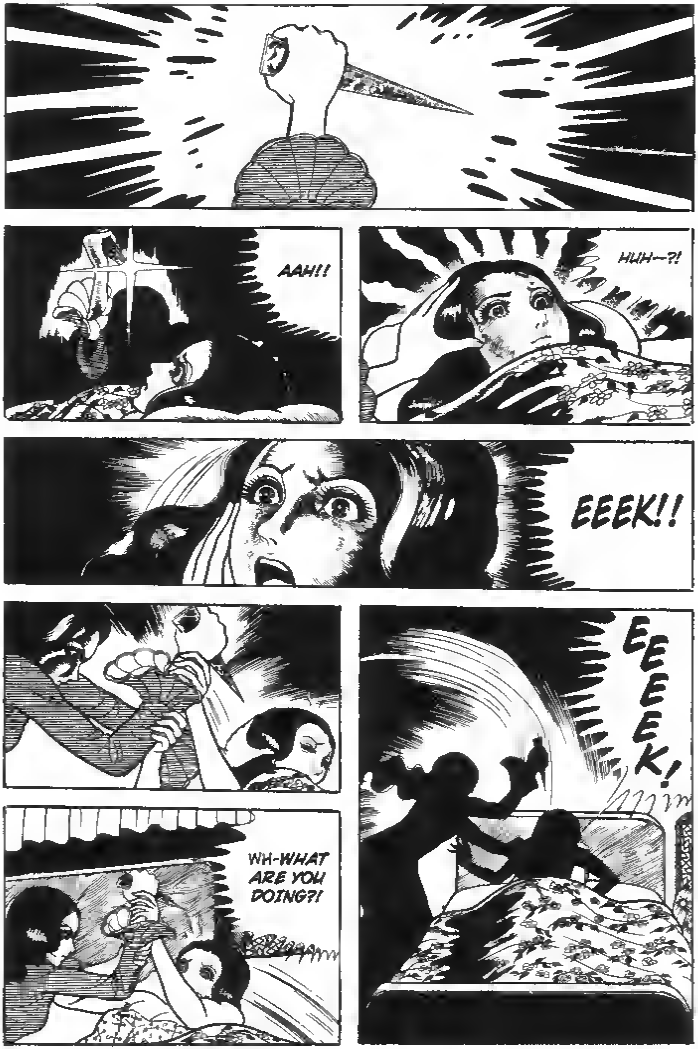
WHAT IF SHE'S BEEN WATCHING ME THE WHOLE TIME...?!
THERE ARE...
...THERE ARE NO OTHER MIRRORS, ARE THERE? PLEASE DO THE SAME WITH ALL OF THEM!
THIS OKAY? THAT'S ALL THE MIRRORS IN THE HOUSE! DIDN'T MISS ONE OF THEM!

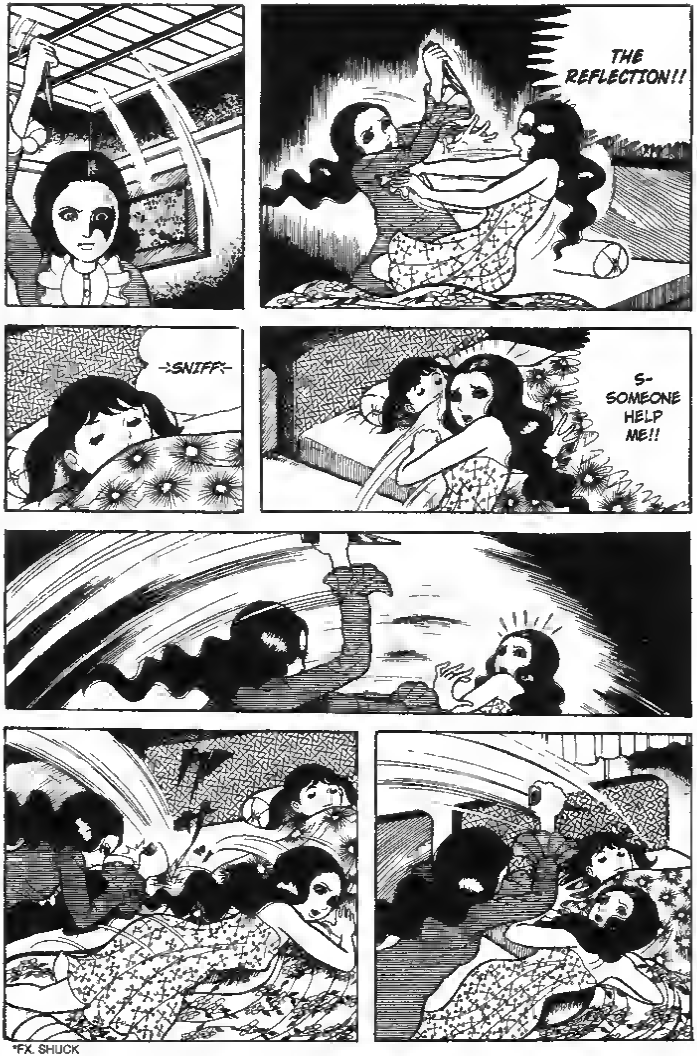

I NEVER KNEW EMI WAS AFRAID OF MIRRORS...!
OUR HOUSE'S GOT LOTS OF GUEST ROOMS, SO YOU CAN STAY AS LONG AS YOU LIKE!
MISS EMI, COME ON! TIME FOR BED!
I'LL BE DOWNSTAIRS WITH GRANDMA...
GOOD NIGHT, THEN!
YOU GOT THEM ALL!
NO MIRRORS IN HERE, ARE THERE?
*FX SLAM


AND SO, RELUCTANTLY, I ENDED UP STAYING THE NIGHT AT WAKATONO'S HOUSE. YOU MAY THINK ME A COWARD..
BUT THEN I THOUGHT.. ABOUT MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MITSUGU, MY REFLECTION FROM THE MIRROR.. SHE WANTED TO TEACH ME A LESSON... I WAS SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE I DIDN'T KNOW BUT HAD SHOWN ME THE WAY... PERHAPS IT WAS FATE...
OH! SHE'S ASLEEP ALREADY!
*FX: ZZZZ
ALL RIGHT, I PROMISE!
BETTER NOT RUN AWAY WHILE I'M SLEEPING!
I WON'T BE BEATEN BY A "REFLECTION"...


*FX SMASH
ガチャン

*FX HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH
ふふふふふ


AAH!!
HUH—?!
EEEK!!
EEEEEK!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

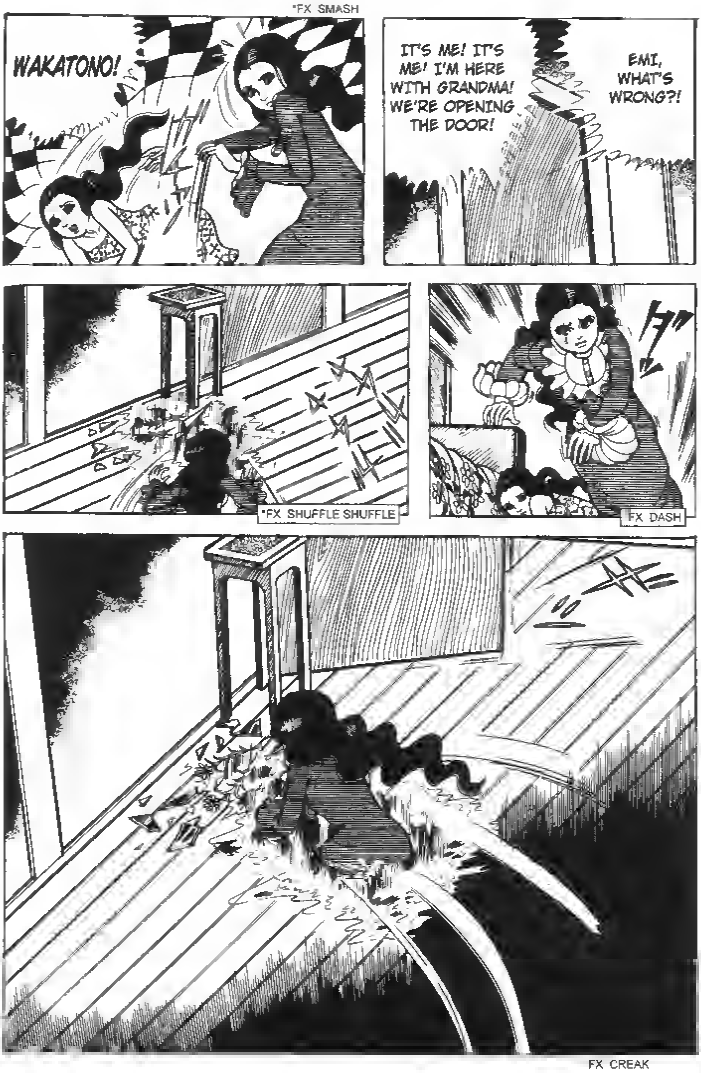


*FX. SHUCK

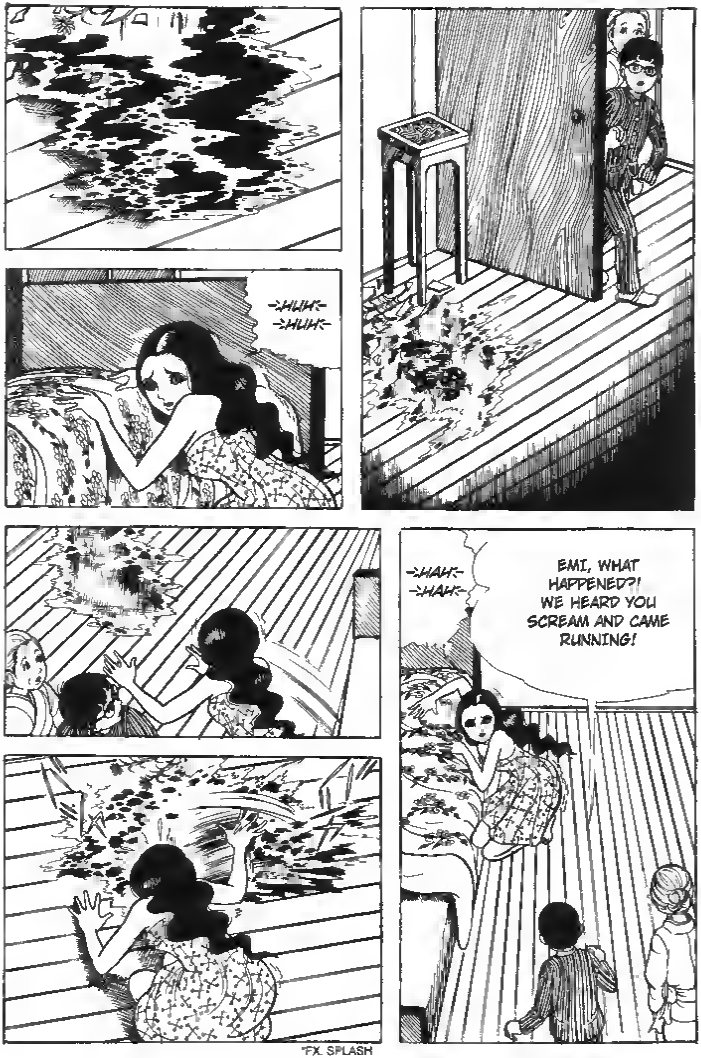
S-
SOMEONE--!!
LEAVE ME ALONE!!
HO HO!
...TAKE YOUR HAIR!
I'M GOING TO...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?!
SO I'M GOING TO TAKE YOUR HAIR!!
I GET THE FEELING YOU'VE FIGURED OUT SOMETHING!
WHAT?!

YOU TRIED TO USE YOUR RIGHT HAND BUT COULDN'T...
YOU JUST SWITCHED HANDS!
I KNEW IT!!
WITH MY LEFT HAND, YOU WON'T GET AWAY THIS TIME!
EXACTLY! MY RIGHT HAND IS YOUR LEFT, AND MY LEFT HAND IS YOUR RIGHT!
IF I WOUND YOUR FACE IT CREATES AN EVEN BIGGER WOUND IN MY SOUL! I HAVE TO STAY BEAUTIFUL!
I WOULD LOVE TO SCAR THAT FACE OF YOURS! BUT I CAN'T!
STOP!!

*FX EEEK
SO I'LL TAKE YOUR HAIR!
MY AESTHETIC SENSE IS MY VERY BEING! I WOULDN'T WANT TO HARM MY OWN LOVELI-NESS!
EEEEK!
*FX SHUCK
AAH!!
*FX RRRIP
EMI!!
*FX KNOCK KNOCK

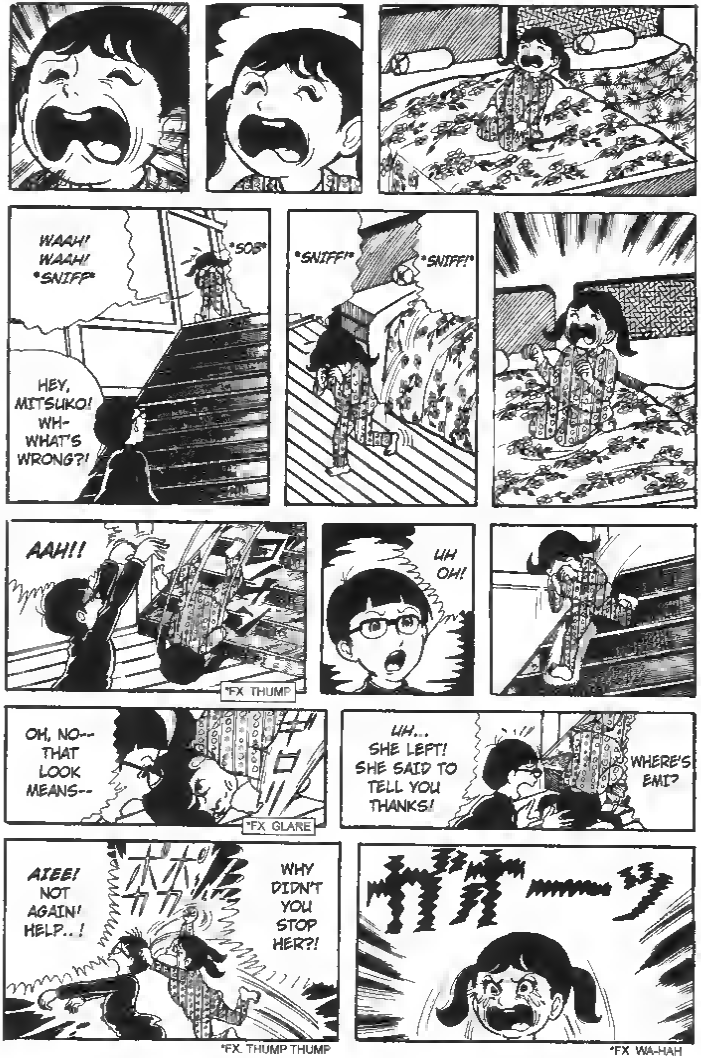

*FX SMASH
WAKATONO!
IT'S ME! IT'S ME! I'M HERE WITH GRANDMA! WE'RE OPENING THE DOOR!
EMI, WHAT'S WRONG?!
*FX SHUFFLE SHUFFLE
FX DASH
FX CREAK

*FX CREAK

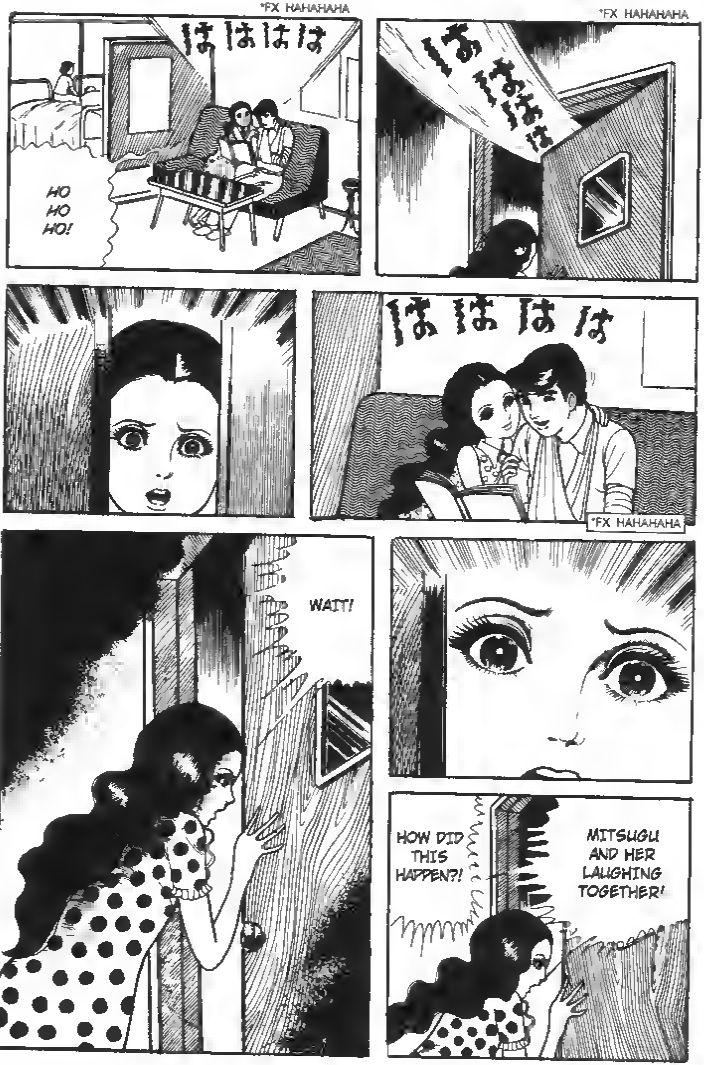

-HUH-
-HUH-
-HAH-
-HAH-
EMI, WHAT HAPPENED?! WE HEARD YOU SCREAM AND CAME RUNNING!
*FX. SPLASH

HUH?!
THAT'S WHAT SURPRISED ME AND MADE ME SCREAM.
UH... UMM...
OH! THE FLOWER VASE IS BROKEN!
-:HUH:-
-:HUH:-
YES, I'M FINE NOW IT WAS NOTHING.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, CHILD? MY GRANDSON TOLD ME ABOUT YOU.
ISN'T THIS YOUR HAIR, EMI?
AND THERE'S HAIR OVER HERE!

I HAD A DREAM SOMEONE WAS PLAYING TAG!
-:YAWN:-
*FX FSSH
*FX THUD
SHE'S GONE!
NOT HERE!
MAYBE SHE DIDN'T SLEEP WELL AND ENDED UP UPSIDE-DOWN!
SHE RAN AWAY!!
WAAH!!
OR HERE!
OR HERE!
OR HERE!


WAAH! WAAH! *SNIFF!
SOB
HEY, MITSUKO! WH-WHAT'S WRONG?!
SNIFF!
SNIFF!
AAH!!
*FX THUMP
UH OH!
OH, NO--- THAT LOOK MEANS--
*FX GLARE
UH... SHE LEFT! SHE SAID TO TELL YOU THANKS!
WHERE'S EMI?
AIEE! NOT AGAIN! HELP..!
WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP HER?!
*FX THUMP THUMP
*FX WA-HAH

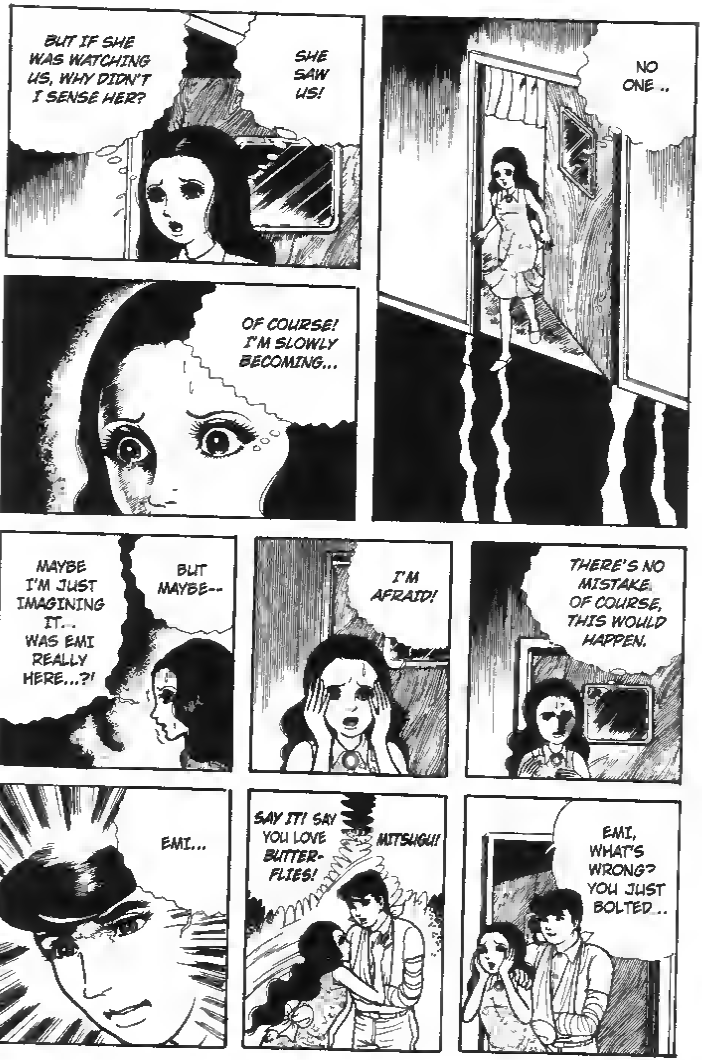
I'LL START AGAIN, PROPERLY THIS TIME!
I HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR NOW!
ALL THIS TIME I'VE BEEN SCARED OF THE REFLECTION ...
I WON'T LOSE THIS TIME!
...I'VE REALLY BEEN AFRAID OF MYSELF!
BUT WHY DID MY REFLECTION WANT TO HURT ME, I WONDER...?
ONLY BECAUSE I FIGURED HER OUT?
*FX STARE
中央病院
外科
内科
病院
CENTRAL HOSPITAL/INTERNAL MEDICINE/EXTERNAL MEDICINE
AAH!!
THAT'S MITSUGU'S ROOM!
I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS...


*FX HAHAHAHA
はははは
HO HO HO!
*FX HAHAHAHA
はははは
はははは
*FX HAHAHAHA
WAIT!
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?!
MITSUGU AND HER LAUGHING TOGETHER!

...REALLY DOES LIKE MITSUGU AFTER ALL ..?
BUT DOES THIS MEAN THE REFLECTION...
MITSUGU...
HUH?
...DO YOU LOVE ME?
MITSUGU... DO YOU..
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?
WHAT'S WRONG?

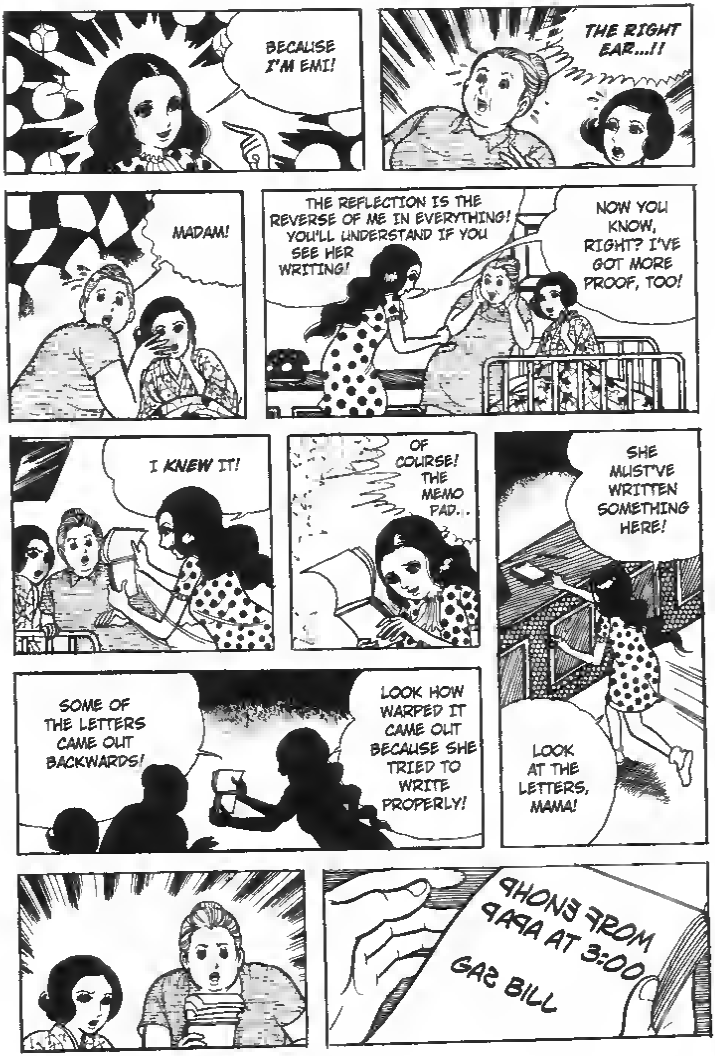
BUT IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE TRYING TO MOVE TOO FAST. I FEEL MORE SURPRISED THAN EMOTIONAL ABOUT YOU RIGHT NOW.
SOMETHING'S DIFFERENT ABOUT YOU. THE TRUTH IS, I'M CONFUSED.
YOU'RE DIFFERENT.. YOU'VE TOTALLY CHANGED FROM BEFORE
BEFORE YOU WERE LIKE A FLOWER. NOW YOU'RE LIKE A BUTTERFLY.
I LOVE YOU, BUT..
DO YOU LOVE ME?
JUST TELL ME!
JUST GIVE ME AN ANSWER!
THAT'S WHAT I'M ASKING YOU! WHICH DO YOU LOVE-- FLOWERS OR BUTTERFLIES?!
YOU HAVE TO LOVE BUTTERFLIES.. ONLY *BUTTERFLIES!!*
I CAN'T CONCEIVE OF A FLOWER AND A BUTTERFLY AT THE SAME TIME-- THAT YOU'RE BOTH OF THEM.
I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND IT SOMEHOW.
SEE, THAT'S WHAT CONFUSES ME!
NO!!
BUT I LOVE THEM BOTH!

MITSUGU!!
SAY IT! SAY YOU HATE FLOWERS AND LOVE BUTTERFLIES!
MITSUGU, ONLY YOU CAN KILL THE FLOWER!
TH-THAT'S ANOTHER REASON SHE TRIED TO WRECK MY HAIR LAST NIGHT!
I KNEW IT... SHE'S IN LOVE WITH MITSUGU!
*FX CLICK
WHO'S THERE?!
WHO WAS THAT?!
*FX CLICK
WHAT'S WRONG?

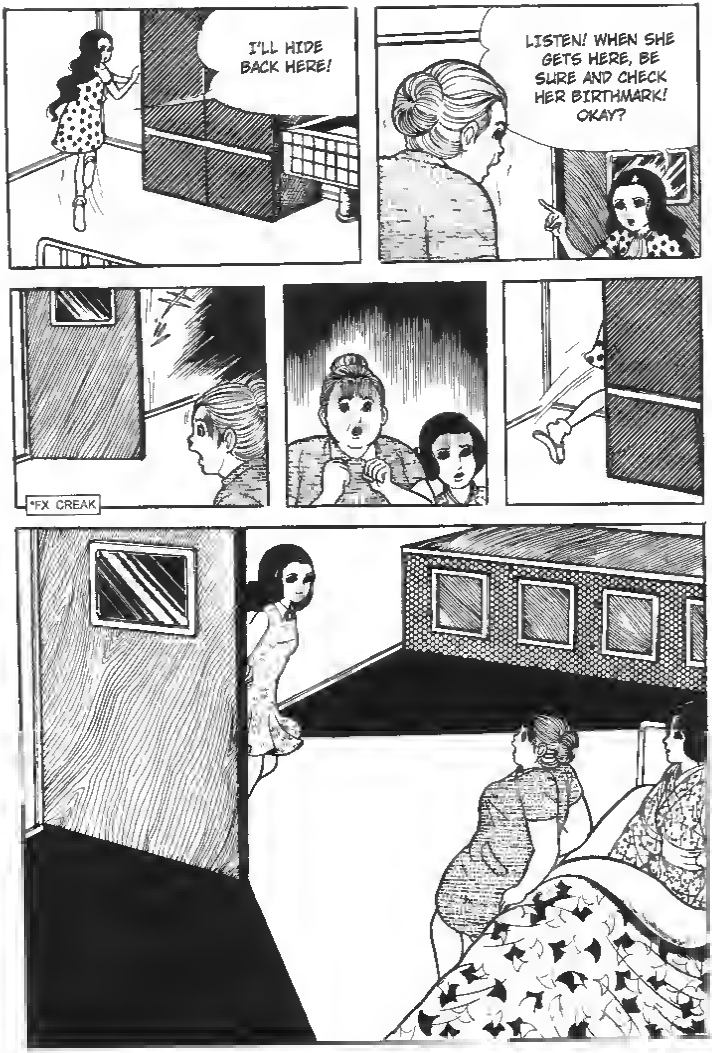

BUT IF SHE WAS WATCHING US, WHY DIDN'T I SENSE HER?
SHE SAW US!
NO ONE ..
OF COURSE! I'M SLOWLY BECOMING...
MAYBE I'M JUST IMAGINING IT... WAS EMI REALLY HERE...?!
BUT MAYBE--
I'M AFRAID!
THERE'S NO MISTAKE. OF COURSE, THIS WOULD HAPPEN.
EMI...
SAY IT! SAY YOU LOVE BUTTER-FLIES!
MITSUGU!!
EMI, WHAT'S WRONG? YOU JUST BOLTED..

THERE'S MAMA'S ROOM!
ANOTHER SECOND AND SHE WOULD'VE GOTTEN ME!
THAT WAS CLOSE!
I NEEDN'T BE AFRAID! THIS TIME I'LL JUST WALK IN AND SHOW THEM MY PROOF!
NO MATTER IF MY HAIR LOOKS DIFFERENT!
IT'S ME! EMI!
MAMA!
*FX SLAM

YOU'RE CONFUSED ABOUT WHO'S REAL AND WHO'S THE IMPOSTER ..
DON'T WORRY! I'M NOT HERE TO FRIGHTEN YOU!
O-OF COURSE I KNOW! YOUNG MISS'S BIRTHMARK IS ON HER RIGHT EAR! YES!
NANNY, I'M SURE YOU KNOW-- TELL ME!
WELL, NO MORE! LISTEN, I-- EMI'S GOT A BIRTHMARK ON HER EAR, RIGHT? WHICH ONE-- RIGHT OR LEFT?
THEN, LOOK!


BECAUSE I'M EMI!
THE RIGHT EAR...!!
MADAM!
THE REFLECTION IS THE REVERSE OF ME IN EVERYTHING! YOU'LL UNDERSTAND IF YOU SEE HER WRITING!
NOW YOU KNOW, RIGHT? I'VE GOT MORE PROOF, TOO!
I KNEW IT!
OF COURSE! THE MEMO PAD..
SHE MUST'VE WRITTEN SOMETHING HERE!
SOME OF THE LETTERS CAME OUT BACKWARDS!
LOOK HOW WARPED IT CAME OUT BECAUSE SHE TRIED TO WRITE PROPERLY!
LOOK AT THE LETTERS, MAMA!
PHONE FROM PAPA AT 3:00
GAS BILL

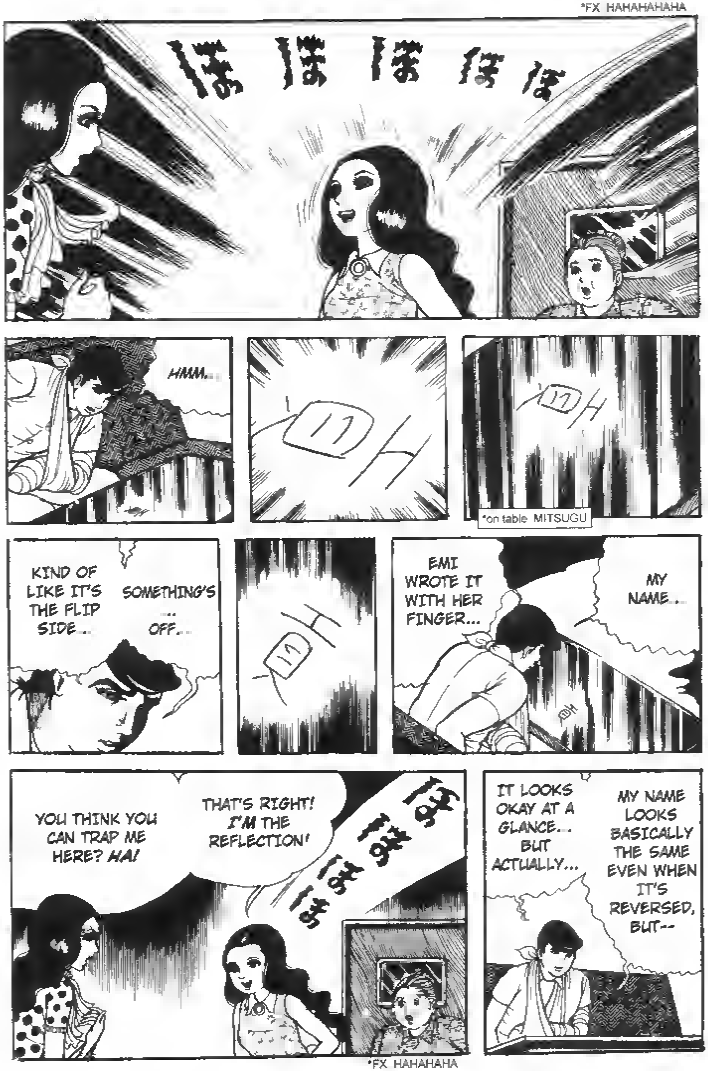
SOMETIMES SHE HELD HER CHOPSTICKS IN HER LEFT HAND.
NOW THAT I THINK ON IT, MADAM...
RIGHT? AND I'VE NEVER BEEN IN HERE, SO IT WAS THE IMPOSTER ALL ALONG!
YOUNG MISS DOESN'T WRITE LIKE THIS!
IT-IT'S TRUE, MADAM!
GOOD HEAVENS...!
IT MIGHT BE *HER!*
SOMEONE'S COMING!
WHAT--?!
SHE CAME OUT OF THE MIRROR IN OUR HOUSE!
YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE THIS, BUT SHE'S MY *REFLECTION!*


I'LL HIDE BACK HERE!
LISTEN! WHEN SHE GETS HERE, BE SURE AND CHECK HER BIRTHMARK! OKAY?
*FX CREAK

HAS... SOMEONE-- MY IMPOSTER-- BEEN HERE...?
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?
FX SLAM
N-NO ONE'S BEEN HERE!
NO! NOT AT ALL!
YOUNG MISS, WERE YOU WITH MITSUGU AGAIN?
N-NOTHING! JUST STOPPING THE DRAFT!
OH, NO...!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
HUH--?!
THERE'S INK ON YOUR FACE!
OH! OH, MY...!

EEK!!
THIS-- THIS IS THE IMPOSTER!!
MADAM! IT'S JUST AS EMI TOLD US BEFORE! THE BIRTHMARK IS ON THE LEFT!
OHH.
Y-YOU TRICKED ME!

EXACTLY! YOU'VE BEEN TRICKING US ALL ALONG, HAVEN'T YOU?!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TRICKED THEM!
LOOK HOW SHE REACHED FOR THE KNOB WITH HER LEFT HAND!
NO! YOU'RE NOT ESCAPING!
WELL, NO MORE OF THAT! THAT LOOK IN YOUR EYE, EVEN YOUR MOUTH-- YOUNG MISS NEVER HAD SUCH A COARSE EXPRESSION!

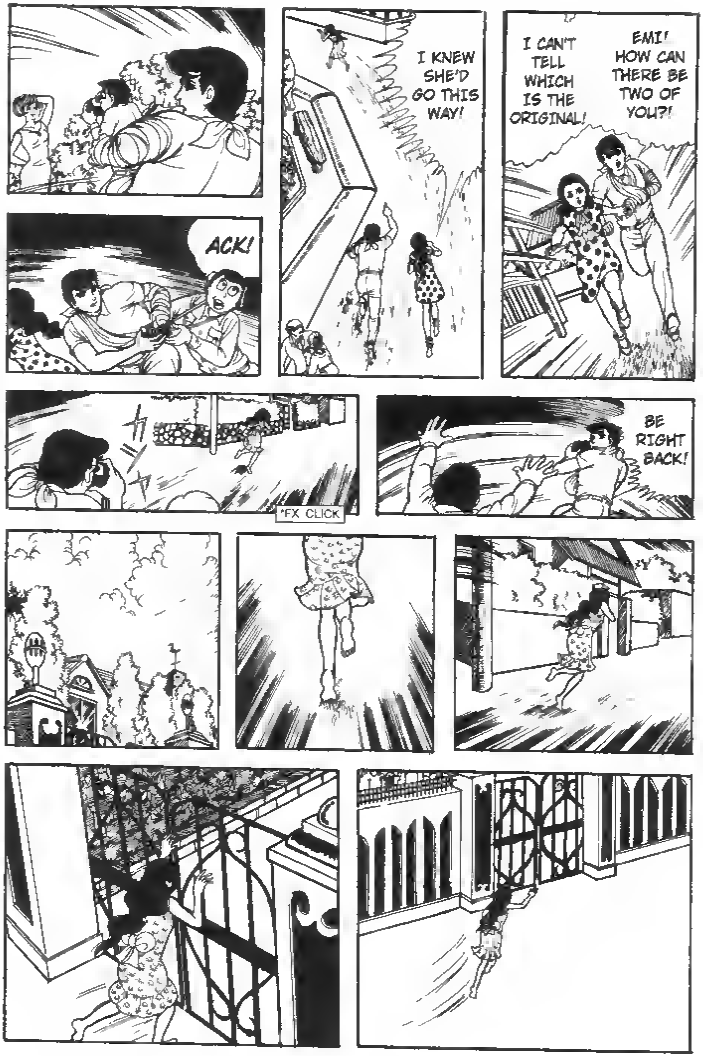

*FX HAHAHAHAHA
はははははは
HMM...
*on table MITSUGU
KIND OF LIKE IT'S THE FLIP SIDE..
SOMETHING'S ... OFF...
EMI WROTE IT WITH HER FINGER...
MY NAME...
YOU THINK YOU CAN TRAP ME HERE? HA!
THAT'S RIGHT! I'M THE REFLECTION!
はははははは
IT LOOKS OKAY AT A GLANCE.. BUT ACTUALLY...
MY NAME LOOKS BASICALLY THE SAME EVEN WHEN IT'S REVERSED, BUT--
*FX HAHAHAHAHA

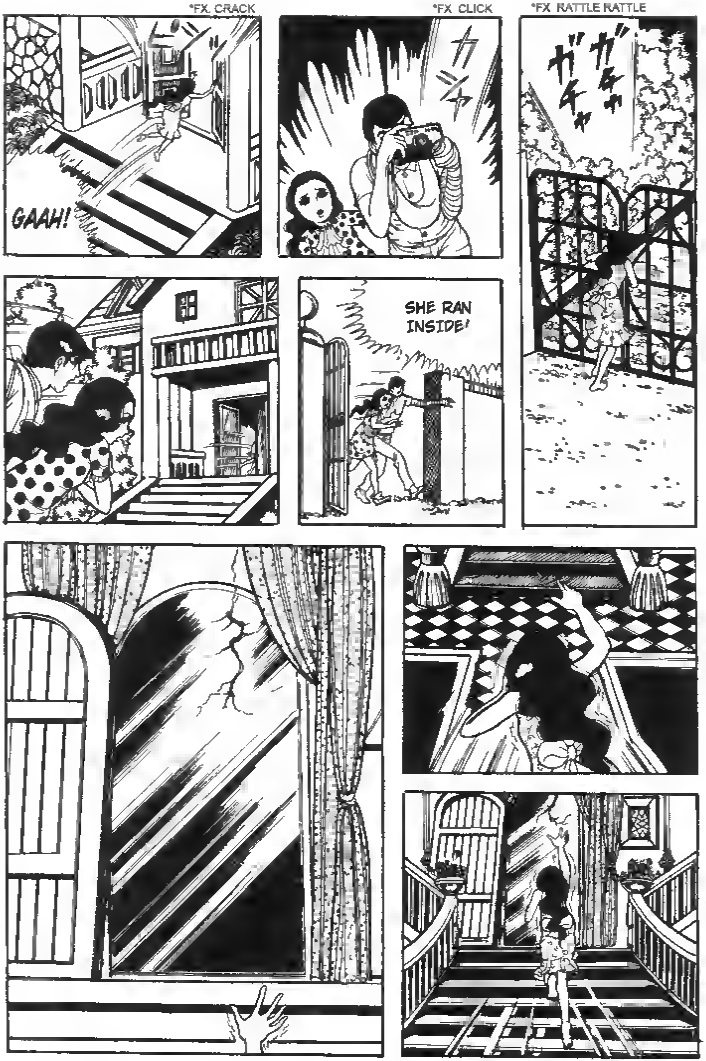
SHE'S GOING FOR THE MIRROR!
ピシッ
*FX CRACK
.. ENTER IT!
I CAN'T ..
OH NO!
AAAAAH!!
ピシーー
FX CRACK

*FX. CRACK
AIEEE!!
CAN'T GET IN THE MIRROR!
I CAN'T GET IN!!
I HAVE TO GET TO THE ORIGINAL! NOW!
*FX. THUD THUD

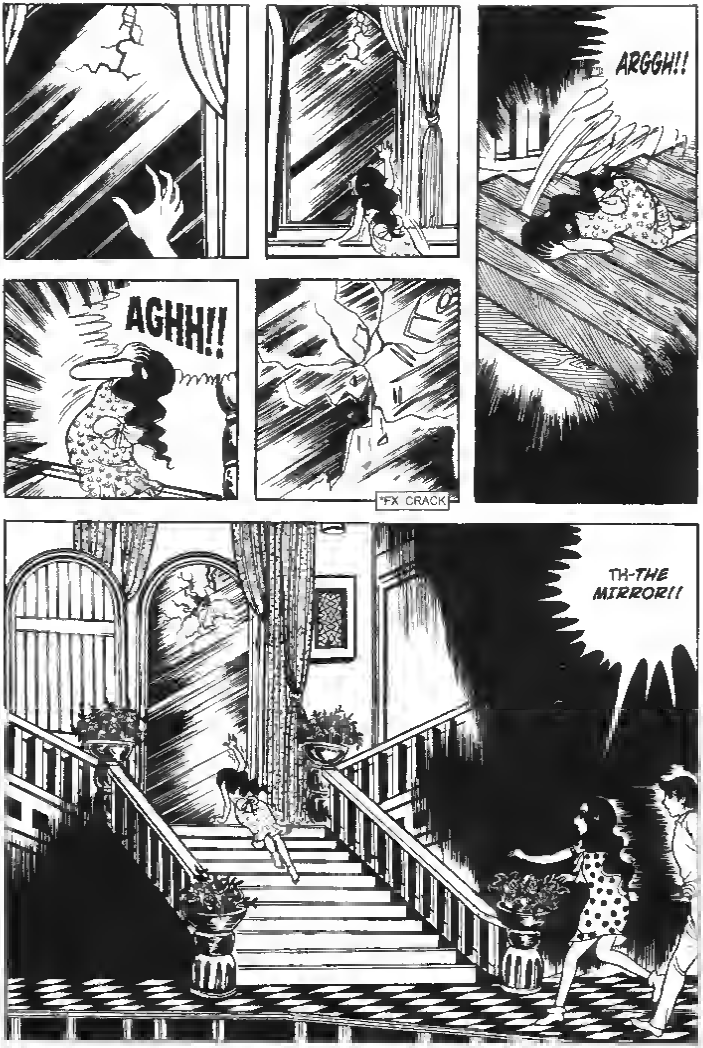
*FX. CRACK
H-HELP ME!!
*FX. CRACK
あぁぁ
YOUNG MISS!!
*FX. AAAH
EEEK!
SHE'S HEADING HOME!
YOUNG MISS!
WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
YOUNG MISS!
AAAH!!
AAAH!!
*FX. CRACK

AAH!!
WHAT?!
MITSUGU! THAT'S MY REFLECTION! THE ONE THAT'S BEEN WITH YOU! SHE ESCAPED FROM THE MIRROR!
EMI...?
IS THAT--?!
HEY!
HUH?!
SHE'S HEADED FOR MY HOUSE! TO GO BACK INTO THE MIRROR!
SHE'S ESCAPING! WE HAVE TO FOLLOW HER!
GYAHH!!
*FX CRACK
WHAT...?!


I KNEW SHE'D GO THIS WAY!
I CAN'T TELL WHICH IS THE ORIGINAL!
EMI! HOW CAN THERE BE TWO OF YOU?!
ACK!
*FX CLICK
BE RIGHT BACK!


*FX CRACK
GAAH!
*FX CLICK
カシャ
*FX RATTLE RATTLE
ガチャ
ガチャ
SHE RAN INSIDE!

*FX. CRACK
NO!!


ARGGH!!
AGHH!!
*FX CRACK
TH-THE MIRROR!!

H-HURRY! INSIDE THE MIRROR
H-HELP ME!!
IT'S BREAKING APART FROM WHERE THE LIGHTNING HIT IT BEFORE!
HEY!!
HELP ME!
AAH!!
*FX CRACK
HRKK!
MITSUGU!
OH, NO!!
EEEK!!

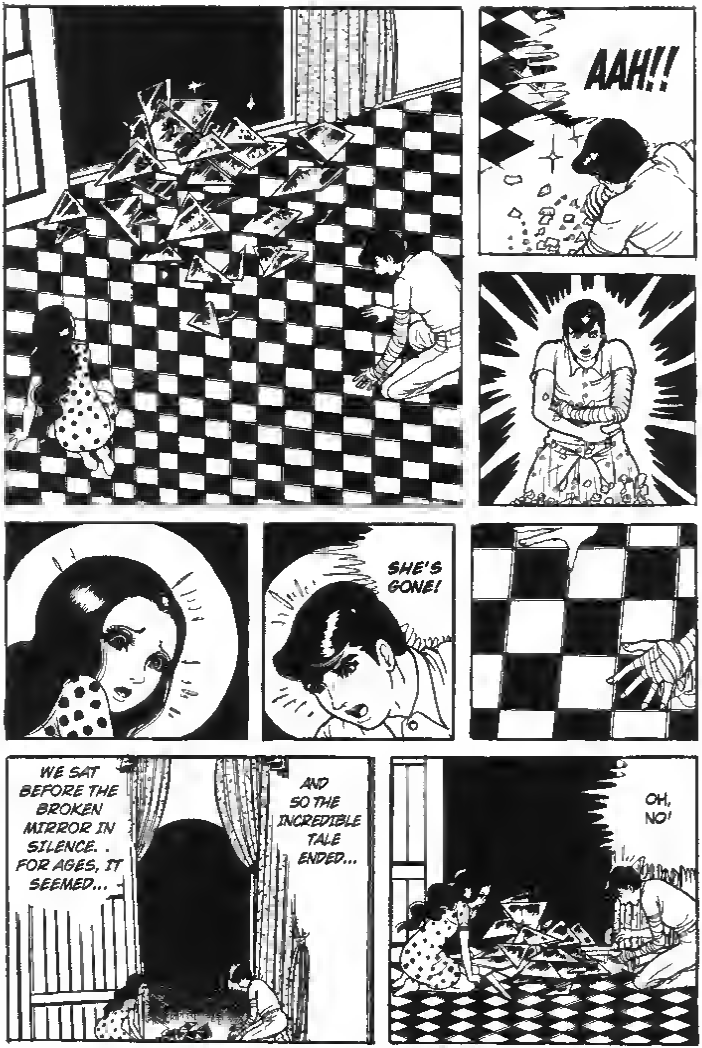
HURRY!
I'M JUST A REFLECTION!
TAKE ME TO THE MIRROR!
AIEE!!
EMI!!
*FX CRACK
IF I CAN'T GET BACK IN, I'LL--
I CAN'T GO BACK!!
I'M SCARED!
HOLD ME, MITSUGU!
DON'T LOOK AT ME!
BUT I CAN'T GO BACK... AND I CAN'T GO ON IN THIS WORLD EITHER...
I'M A REFLECTION! JUST A REFLECTION!
THERE'S NO GOING BACK NOW!

WHEN I FIRST GAINED THE GIFT OF THOUGHT, THAT'S WHEN I SPROUTED LIFE!
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE ALIVE?
I'M SCARED OF DYING!
I'M SCARED OF SILENCE!
IF I'M SILENT I CAN FEEL DEATH COMING, SO LET ME SPEAK!
AND THEN, I BECAME MORE AND MORE DISTINCT... AND DIDN'T JUST ENVY, BUT DEVELOPED THE DESIRE TO STRIKE OUT..
SUDDENLY I BECAME JEALOUS OF EMI'S BEAUTY IN THE MIRROR... THIS WAS THE BIRTH OF MY SOUL.
THEN ONE DAY, I BEGAN TO FEEL .. THAT WAS LIFE GROWING!
NO ONE LIVES WHO DOESN'T THINK!
AND WHEN I MET YOU, MITSUGU, I REALLY BEGAN TO LOVE YOU!
I GAINED THE POWER TO ESCAPE THE MIRROR!
AND THEN THE DAY CAME WHEN I ACTUALLY HAD THE POWER TO...
WHEN I LEARNED ABOUT MITSUGU, I WANTED TO STEAL HIM, AND I WANTED TO MAKE EMI SUFFER!
AAH!! THE CRACK IN THE MIRROR IS GETTING BIGGER!!
AS MY LOVE GREW, I BEGAN TO BECOME REAL... NOT JUST A REFLECTION, BUT A PHYSICAL BEING LIKE YOU...

*FX CRACK

*FX CRRRACK
OH! IT'S NO USE!
OH NO!
URKK!
*FX CRACK
EMI! YOU'VE GOT TO TRY TO HOLD IT TOGETHER!
AAH!!
*FX CRRRACK
*FX CRRRACK
I SHOULD HAVE STAYED A REFLECTION....
EEEK!!
*FX CRACK
KEEP IT TOGETHER!!
NO!!
*FX CRACK CRACK

YOU... YOU...
...CALLED ME EMI...
OH, NO! IT'S BREAKING UP!
*FX CRRRACK
EMI!!
*FX CRACKKKCRACKKK
AAH!
*FX CRACKKK CRACKKK
*FX CRACKKK CRACKKK
EEEEK!!
*FX SMASH

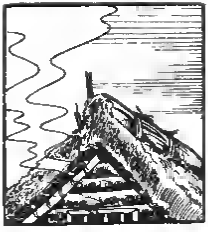

AAH!!
SHE'S GONE!
WE SAT BEFORE THE BROKEN MIRROR IN SILENCE. . FOR AGES, IT SEEMED...
AND SO THE INCREDIBLE TALE ENDED...
OH, NO!

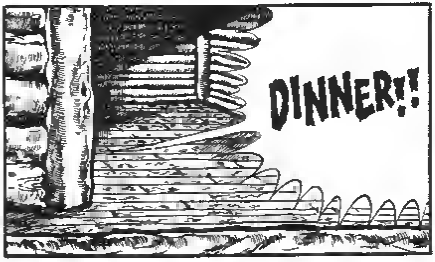
MORE THAN MADE UP-- PERHAPS WE MADE ONE MORE STEP TOWARDS BECOMING ADULTS. WE HAD GROWN UP JUST A LITTLE BIT AFTER WHAT HAD HAPPENED ..
LOOKING BACK NOW, IT ALL FEELS LIKE A DREAM.
MITSUGU AND I MADE UP
WAS IT ALL A FANTASY AFTER ALL?
THE REFLECTION WAS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN ..
AAH!
THEY'RE OF THE REFLEC-TION!
DON'T BE SCARED, BUT LOOK AT THESE PHOTOS
DID MY "REFLECTION" DIE THAT DAY ..? OR, I WONDER, IF THAT WASN'T JUST ANOTHER SIDE OF MYSELF ..
BUT THE ME I SEE IN THERE NOW IS PROBABLY NOT THE ME THERE WAS BEFORE.
LATER, WE GOT A NEW MIRROR

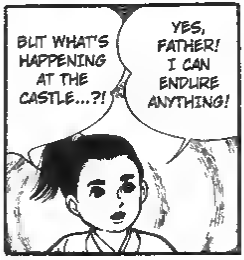
THE END

復讐鬼人
ふくしゅうきじん
DEMON OF
VENGEANCE

..ENTRUSTED WITH THE CARE OF OUR LORD'S HEIR
SHOGO, WE ARE LIVING ON THIS MOUNTAIN..




DINNER!!


BUT WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE CASTLE...?!
YES, FATHER! I CAN ENDURE ANYTHING!

WHAT'S TAKING YOU?! HURRY UP!!
COMING, MASTER.
I'M HUNGRY!!
WHERE'S MY DINNER?!
YES, SIR!!
SHOGO, YOU CAN BE MASTER'S FRIEND. THAT IS YOUR ROLE!
FATHER, PLEASE LET ME HELP IN SOME WAY!
-HMPH!-
SHALL WE BE FRIENDS?
*FX. BOW
WHAT DO YOU WANT...?
HUH?!
FINE! BE MY HORSE!!

QUIT DALLYING! DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT A HORSE LOOKS LIKE?!
I SAID YOU WILL BE MY HORSE!!
Y-YES, MASTER!
HOLD THIS IN YOUR MOUTH!!
HYAA!!
ACK!!

THEY ALWAYS DID THIS FOR ME IN THE CASTLE HALLS! NOW CIRCLE THE ROOM! FIFTY TIMES!!
HOLD YOUR BACK UP!!
YOU'RE SAGGING IN THE MIDDLE!
NOW TURN RIGHT, HORSE!!
はは
はは
*FX HAHAHA HAHAHA
GO FASTER! FASTER!!
ピシーッ
AAH!!
*FX THWACK

WEAKLING! HOW ABOUT THIS?!
*FX. THUMP
GAAH!!
WHAT KIND OF HORSE ARE YOU?!
OH, NO!
YOUNG MASTER!! DINNER IS PREPARED!
HYAA!
HYAA HYAA!

AND WHEN YOUR HOUSE IS RESTORED WE SHALL RETURN!! UNTIL THEN WE MUST ENDURE.
YES.. I'M SURE YOUR FATHER HAS ALSO ESCAPED UNHARMED,
WHAT?! IS THIS IT...?!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME. IT'S ALL THERE WAS ON THE MOUNTAIN
MASTER!
I SHALL SUMMON YOU WHEN NEEDED!
ENOUGH! LEAVE!
OF COURSE. YOU'RE HUNGRY...
SHOGO, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
I HAVEN'T EATEN SINCE YESTERDAY!
FATHER...
WHAT'S WRONG? WHY DON'T YOU EAT?
YES, SIR.
IT'S UNHEALTHY, BUT PLEASE HAVE MILLET AGAIN TODAY

*FX BANG BANG
MUSO!! BRING MORE FOOD!! MORE!!
ポンポン
.....
YOU FOOL!! A CHILD MUSTN'T BE CONCERNED WITH SUCH THINGS!!
I'LL GIVE HIM MINE, FATHER.
BRING MORE FOOD NOW!!
I HAD PLENTY AT THE CASTLE!
ガチャン
THIS TRIFLING WON'T FILL MY STOMACH!!
*FX CLATTER
がっがっ
*FX MUNCH MUNCH
MASTER, PLEASE HAVE THIS.
YOU THINK THIS IS EDIBLE?!
ガチャ
*FX CLATTER
ブハー
*FX HOARK

TO THE CASTLE!
MASTER! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
NO MORE!!
BACK TO THE CASTLE! I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
AAH...
I'LL TELL MY FATHER ABOUT THIS!!
LET GO OF ME!
LET GO!!
YOU MUSTN'T! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!!
AAH!
YOU DOG!! YOU DOG!!
*FX THUD THUD
I HATE BEING TRAPPED UP HERE!!
FX. WAH! WAH
MASTER! SOON--VERY SOON WE SHALL RECEIVE SUMMONS FROM YOUR FATHER!
MASTER!!
YOU DOG!!
*FX THUMP THUMP THUMP

LICK THE SOLES OF MY FEET!!
EACH DAY HE BECAME MORE FRENZIED, AND HIS BEHAVIOR MORE INTOLERABLE.
FOR THE YOUNG MASTER, SPOILED BY CASTLE LIFE, THIS NEW DAILY STRUGGLE WAS PERHAPS WORSE THAN DEATH...!!
BUT FOR MUSO, THE VASSAL, NO MATTER THE CRUELTY, HE COULD NAUGHT BUT ENDURE.
YES, MASTER...
SHOGO!! I DROPPED MY SANDAL DOWN THERE! GO FETCH IT!
スルッ
*FX SHRKK

SHOGO...
GIVE IT!!
MASTER! I'VE BROUGHT IT BACK FOR YOU!!
AAH!!

GO FETCH IT AGAIN!!
SHOGO!!
ガラガラ
*FX KSHK SSHK
I'M FINE, FATHER... I'M A WARRIOR'S SON... THIS IS NOTHING..
ARE YOU HURT?! STAY STRONG, SHOGO!!
HNNN...
SHOGO, STAY AWAKE!!

HM?
BUT I WONDER WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO OUR LORD...?
EXCELLENT GAME TODAY! MASTER WILL BE MOST PLEASED!
THEN ONE DAY...
YOU LOST THE DUEL, SO EAT THIS ROTTEN DUMPLING!! THAT WAS THE DEAL...!!
NO!
!!RGH
URK!
IF YOU WON'T EAT IT, THEN I'LL MAKE YOU!
YOU STUBBORN DOG!! EAT IT!!
URGH!!
SHOGO COULDN'T HAVE LOST! HE MUST HAVE YIELDED TO APPEASE MASTER...

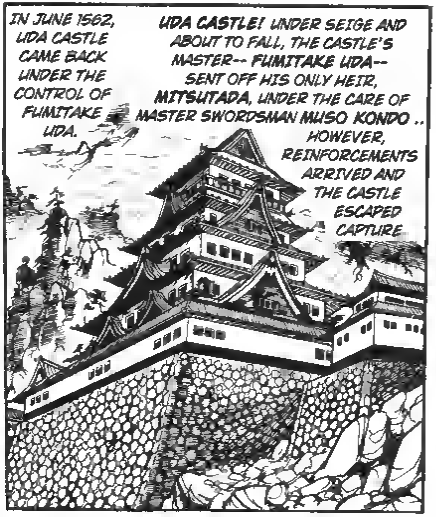
THE WRATH THAT HAD BEEN BUILDING UP INSIDE MUSO EXPLODED IN THAT INSTANT!!
IF YOU WON'T EAT IT, I'LL FORCE YOUR MOUTH OPEN!!
*FX SLAP
ダダダ
YOU CUR!!
*FX THUD THUD THUD
ッキーン
*FX AIEE

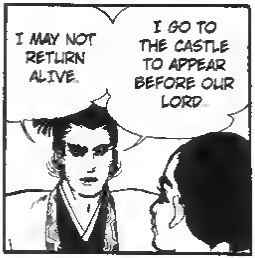
M-MASTER!
AAH!
*FX. AAAAH
ぎゃあ～～っ
OH NO!!
ARE YOU HURT, MASTER?!
ひいっ
MASTER!!
*FX. WAH! WAH
IT HURTS! MY EYES HURT!!
MASTER, FORGIVE ME!! IT... IT WAS MY FAULT!! PLEASE FORGIVE ME!!

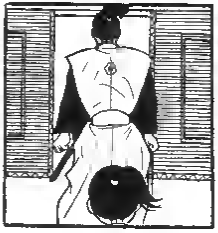
I DEMAND RITUAL SUICIDE-- HARAKIRI!! YOU WILL LEARN!!
MY ONLY SON, WHO I RAISED MYSELF AFTER MY WIFE PASSED!!
MUSO KONDO, YOU SWINE!! I GAVE YOU BUT A SIMPLE TASK..
WHAT?! YOU BLINDED MITSUTADA?!
AT LEAST I CAN REPAY HIM AS A WARRIOR AND COMMIT HARAKIRI HERE...!!
HE'D NEVER FORGIVE ME, NO MATTER THE EXCUSE!
*FX WAH WAH
FATHER!!
SHOGO AS WELL...
FATHER!!
AND IF I DIE, WHO WILL TREAT MASTER'S WOUNDS. ?
MASTER MUST BE LOOKED AFTER UNTIL RETURNED TO HIS FATHER'S CARE..
I CAN'T...! I--I CAN'T KILL SHOGO! OR DIE AND LEAVE HIM BEHIND ..!

FX WAH! WAH!

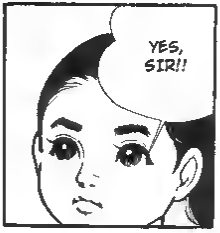
LISTEN WELL, SHOGO!!


IN JUNE 1562, UDA CASTLE CAME BACK UNDER THE CONTROL OF FUMITAKE UDA.
UDA CASTLE! UNDER SEIGE AND ABOUT TO FALL, THE CASTLE'S MASTER-- FUMITAKE UDA-- SENT OFF HIS ONLY HEIR, MITSUTADA, UNDER THE CARE OF MASTER SWORDSMAN MUSO KONDO .. HOWEVER, REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVED AND THE CASTLE ESCAPED CAPTURE.


I MAY NOT RETURN ALIVE.
I GO TO THE CASTLE TO APPEAR BEFORE OUR LORD.



I SHALL LEAVE, THEN!!


YES, SIR!!

I COME TO ACCEPT DUE PUNISHMENT FOR MY CRIMES!!
MUSO KONDO AT YOUR SERVICE, MY LORD.
YOU NEEDN'T CONCERN YOURSELF!!
ENOUGH! THE ACCIDENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL!
YES, LORD!
WE SHALL SPEAK AGAIN LATER.
AND FOR YOUR LONG SERVICE, WE'VE PREPARED YOU A MEAL.
Y-YES, LORD!!
YOU SHOULD TAKE SOME REST.
THIS WAY PLEASE! OUR LORD'S GIFT!
MUSO KONDO, YOUR MEAL IS PREPARED!
WHAT KINDNESS.. TH-THE LORD BEARS NO GRUDGE AGAINST ME!!

MY LORD... HE IS YOUR SOLE HEIR!! WHY DO YOU FORGIVE SUCH AN INCIDENT?!
みみみ
HAHAHA! IT HAS BEGUN...!!
HUH--?!
FX YEAAARGH!
I DO NOT FORGIVE!! AS IF YOU FOOLS COULD KNOW MY MIND!
MY REVENGE WILL LAST HIS LIFETIME!
みみみ
*FX AAARGH
うわあああ
*FX AAARGH

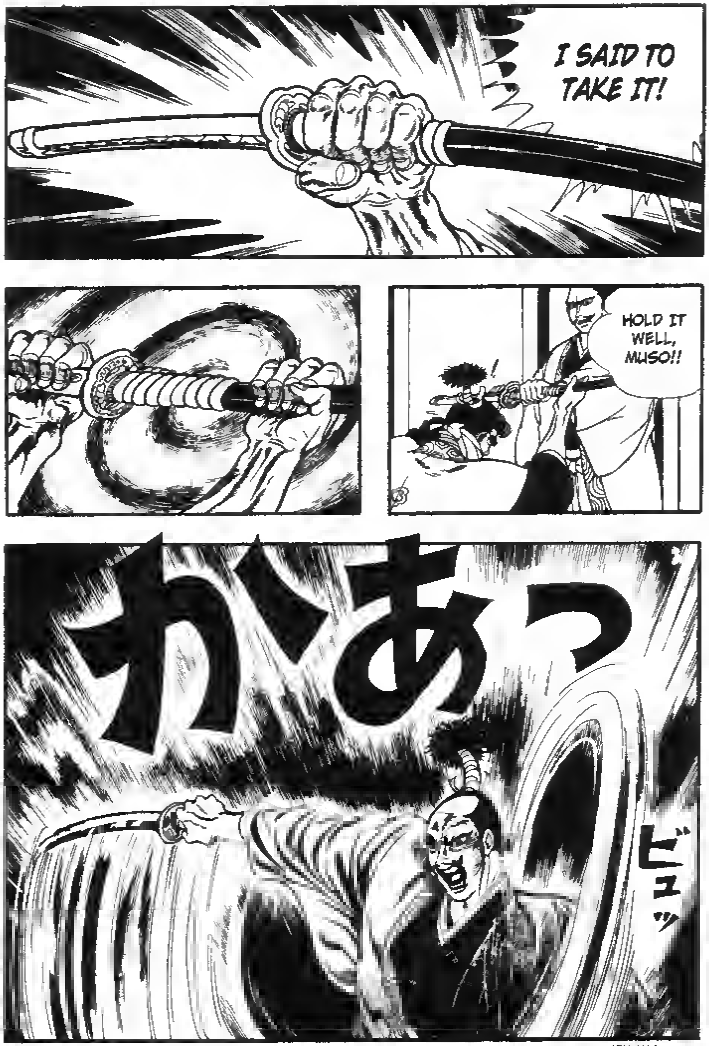
*FX. AAARGH

*FX. SPLOT

I--I'VE BEEN POISONED ...!!
-:HRR:-... IF THEY LEAVE ME LIKE THIS, I'LL BECOME AN INVALID!!
SO FOOLISH TO THINK HE'D FORGIVEN ME...!!
*FX GRAB
HURKK--!!
ひっ
*FX EEK
ガラ
THIS IS TERRIBLE!!
*FX RATTLE

HALT YOUR RACKET!
*FX SHUCK
I WILL TREAT YOUR WOUNDS!
ガラッ
*FX SHUCK
YOU MUSTN'T BE PERMITTED TO DIE, SO OUR LORD HAS ORDERED.

GOOD WORK, GENAN!!
I SHALL VISIT THAT HATE UPON YOU AND YOUR SON SHOGO THE REST OF YOUR LIVES!!
MY HATE IS UNENDING FOR WHAT YOU DID TO MITSUTADA!
MUSO! NOW YOU KNOW MY TRUE THOUGHTS!!
BY THE WAY, MUSO, I HAVE SOMETHING
I TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY!! I WILL FACE ANY PUNISHMENT!! BUT, SHOGO... PLEASE--
COME, TAKE IT! NOW!
KANEMASA, THE SACRED SWORD PASSED DOWN THROUGH THE IIDA FAMILY!! NOW TO YOU, THE MASTER SWORDSMAN!



*FX FWISH

*FX KAA

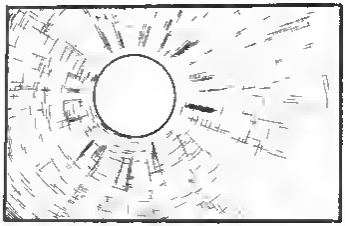
*FX SHACK

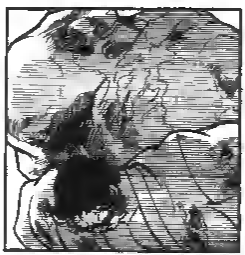
*FX THUD

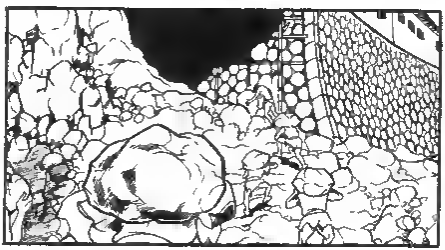
-WURGH!!-
HAHAHAHA! DO YOU SUFFER?! IF SO, THEN STRIKE ME DOWN!!
MUSO KONDO, KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE LAND AS A MASTER SWORDSMAN, NO LONGER HAS ARMS TO EVEN PICK UP HIS SWORD!!
THIS IS BUT A PRELUDE...! MY REVENGE IS YET TO COME!!
PUT HIM WITH THE OTHER CRIMINALS!!

TWISTED BY REVENGE, FUMITAKE UDA, THE CASTLE'S MASTER, CUT OFF BOTH ARMS OF HIS VASSAL MUSO KONDO.

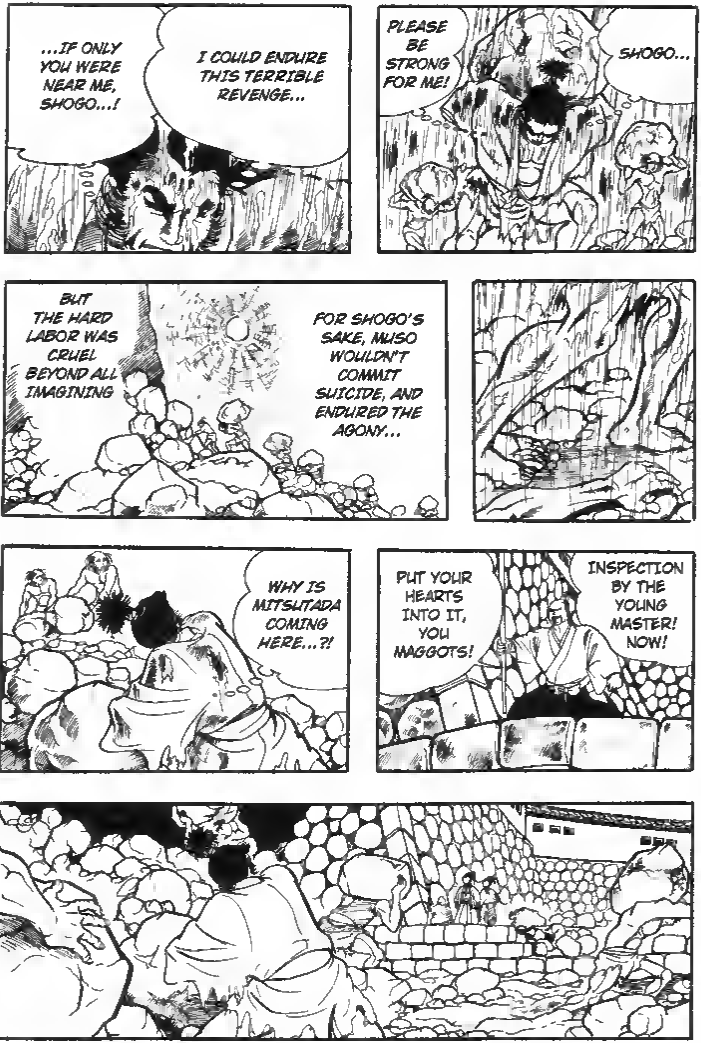
THIS WAS PERHAPS ONE PART OF FUMITAKE'S REVENGE, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY IT ENSURED THAT THE MASTER SWORDSMAN COULD NEVER LIFT A SWORD AGAIN IN RETALIATION.





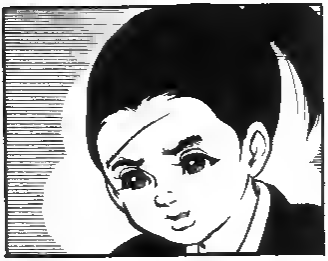


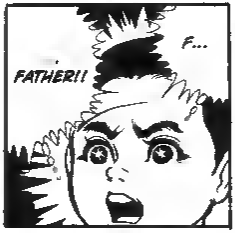
*FX BZZZ
WITH BOTH ARMS STOLEN FROM HIM, MUSO'S LIFE TRULY BECAME A LIVING HELL IN A NEVERENDING REVENGE
BZZZZ
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU NOW...?!
SHOGO...
*FX BZZZ
*FX HRRR


...IF ONLY YOU WERE NEAR ME, SHOGO...!
I COULD ENDURE THIS TERRIBLE REVENGE...
PLEASE BE STRONG FOR ME!
SHOGO...
BUT THE HARD LABOR WAS CRUEL BEYOND ALL IMAGINING
FOR SHOGO'S SAKE, MUSO WOULDN'T COMMIT SUICIDE, AND ENDURED THE AGONY...
WHY IS MITSUTADA COMING HERE...?!
PUT YOUR HEARTS INTO IT, YOU MAGGOTS!
INSPECTION BY THE YOUNG MASTER! NOW!

WHAT?!

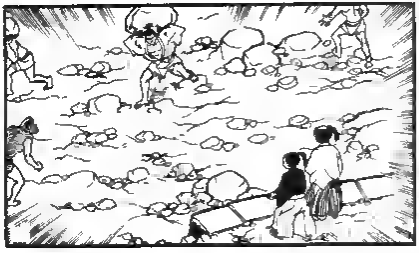
THAT'S SHOGO!!

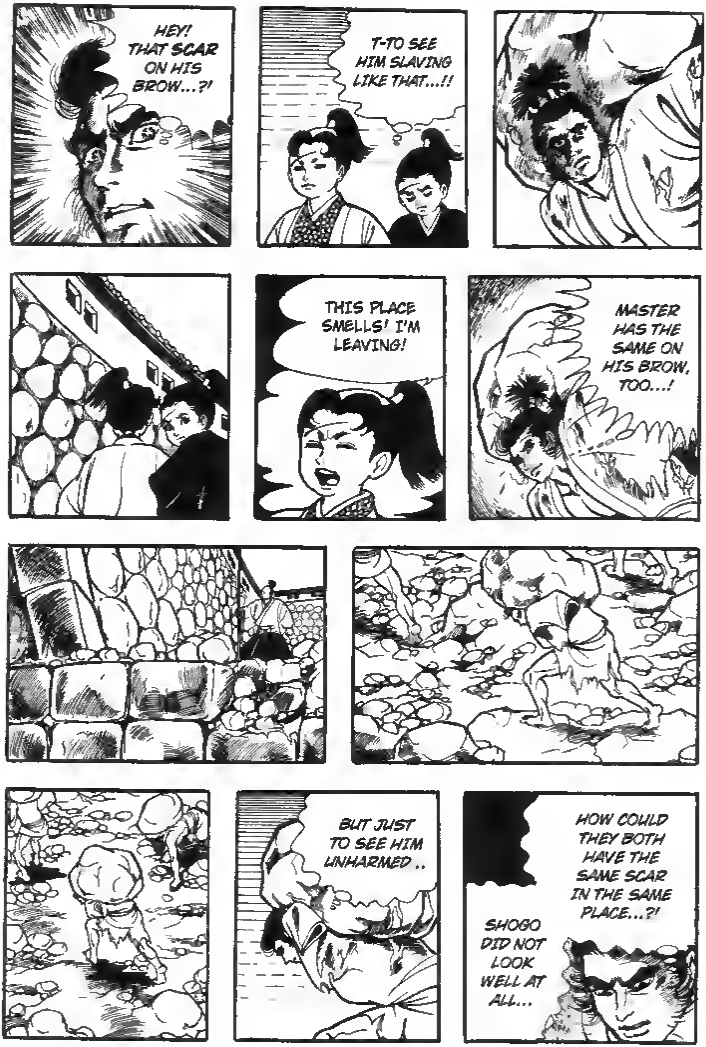



F...
FATHER!!

HUH---?!

WH-WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?!
SHOGO'S WITH YOUNG MASTER!!

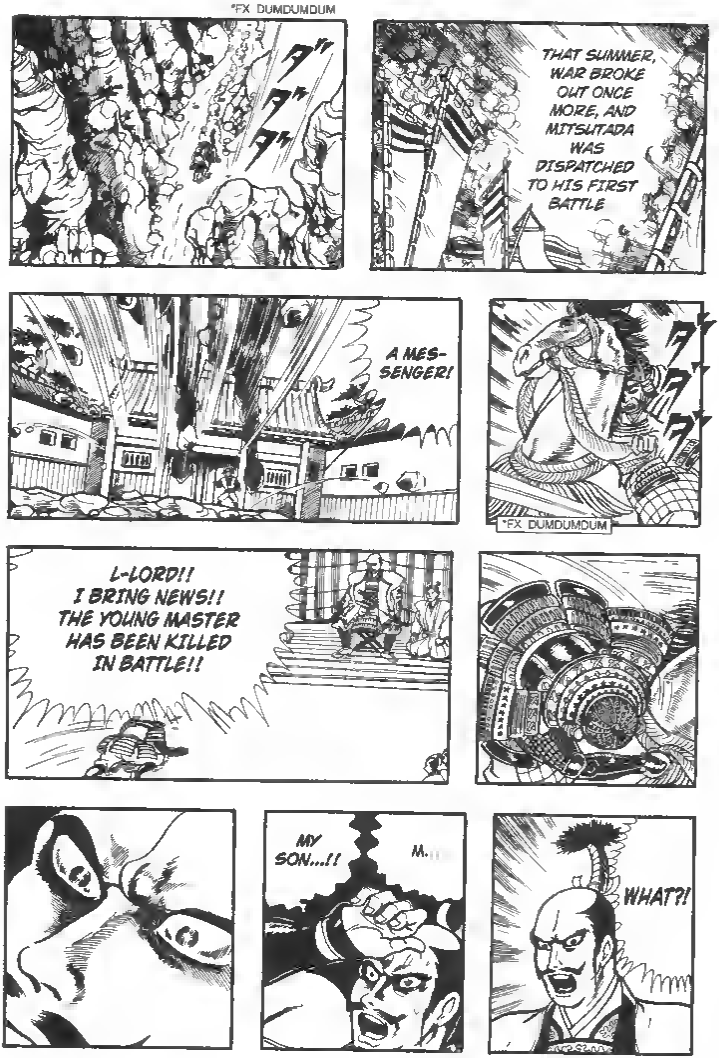



HEY! THAT SCAR ON HIS BROW...?!
T-TO SEE HIM SLAVING LIKE THAT...!!
THIS PLACE SMELLS! I'M LEAVING!
MASTER HAS THE SAME ON HIS BROW, TOO...!
BUT JUST TO SEE HIM UNHARMED ..
HOW COULD THEY BOTH HAVE THE SAME SCAR IN THE SAME PLACE...?!
SHOGO DID NOT LOOK WELL AT ALL...

FATHER!
FATHER!
SHOGO...
WHAT--?!

SO HE'S ALL RIGHT AFTER ALL...!!
"SHOGO" -HRR-
"UNTIL THE DAY WE MEET AGAIN"
"FATHER I AM UNHARMED I RECEIVED THE SCAR ON MY BROW WHEN I TUMBLED. PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF"
正吾はぶじにくらしておりますひたいの傷はころんだときできたものですどうかおからだにお気をつけてください
くしゃ
くしゃ
*FX SHUFF SHUFF
*FX SHUNK

YOUNG MASTER, PLEASE STOP!! THIS IS A DANGEROUS HORSE!!
*FX NEIGH
ヒヒーン
AAH!!
HAHAHAHA!
SILENCE! I'LL HAVE NONE OF YOUR TRIVIAL OBJEC-TIONS!!
HIS TEETH WERE BROKEN BY THE HORSE, SO MUST YOUR TEETH BE BROKEN.
AS YOU KNOW, OUR LORD ORDERS THAT IF YOUNG MASTER IS INJURED, SO TOO MUST YOU BE INJURED. SHOULD MASTER DIE, SO TOO YOU MUST DIE.
ARE YOU READY?
IF I DO NOT ENDURE THIS, WHO KNOWS WHAT WILL BECOME OF FATHER.
THIS IS NOTHING COMPARED TO HIS ANGUISH..
IF I HAD EATEN THE ROTTEN DUMPLING AS TOLD AT THE MOUNTAIN, NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED.
YES I UNDERSTAND


*FX DUMDUMDUM
THAT SUMMER, WAR BROKE OUT ONCE MORE, AND MITSUTADA WAS DISPATCHED TO HIS FIRST BATTLE
A MES-SENGER!
*FX DUMDUMDUM
L-LORD!! I BRING NEWS!! THE YOUNG MASTER HAS BEEN KILLED IN BATTLE!!
MY SON...!!
M...
WHAT?!

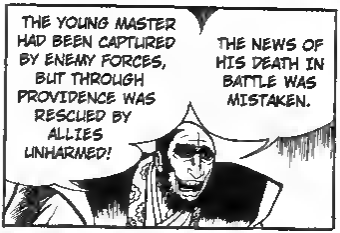
WHERE'S THE ARMLESS ONE?! THE LORD WANTS TO SEE HIM PERSONALLY!
SHOGO HASN'T VISITED ME IN SOME TIME HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED .?!
*FX BZZZZ
ブーン
キー
*FX. CREAK
TH-THE LORD?!
HUH--?!
LONG TIME NO SEE, MUSO!
I HAVE A GIFT FOR YOU TODAY!
ドサッ
*FX THUMP

*FX CLANG
バァン
TAKE A GOOD LOOK!!
NO!!
バラリ
*FX. SHFFF

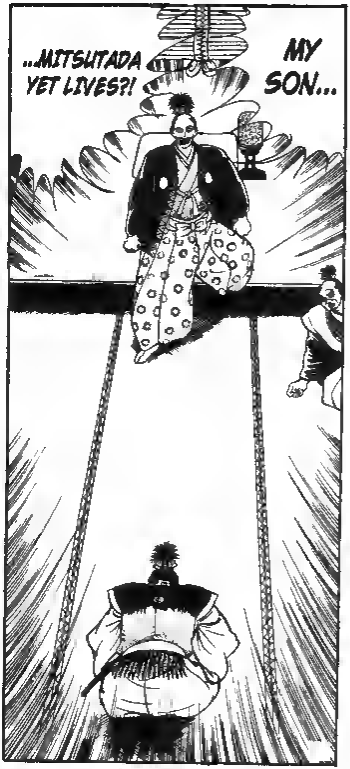
*FX CHEE CHEE CHEE

WHAT?!

YES, LORD!


THE YOUNG MASTER HAD BEEN CAPTURED BY ENEMY FORCES, BUT THROUGH PROVIDENCE WAS RESCUED BY ALLIES UNHARMED!
THE NEWS OF HIS DEATH IN BATTLE WAS MISTAKEN.

WHAT FORTUNE!!

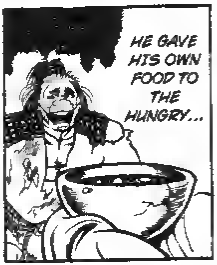

..MITSUTADA YET LIVES?!
MY SON...

*FX BZZZ

WITH NO MEANS LEFT TO HIM, HE HAD MADE A HARD DECISION AND PERHAPS GIVEN UP THE DESIRE FOR REVENGE

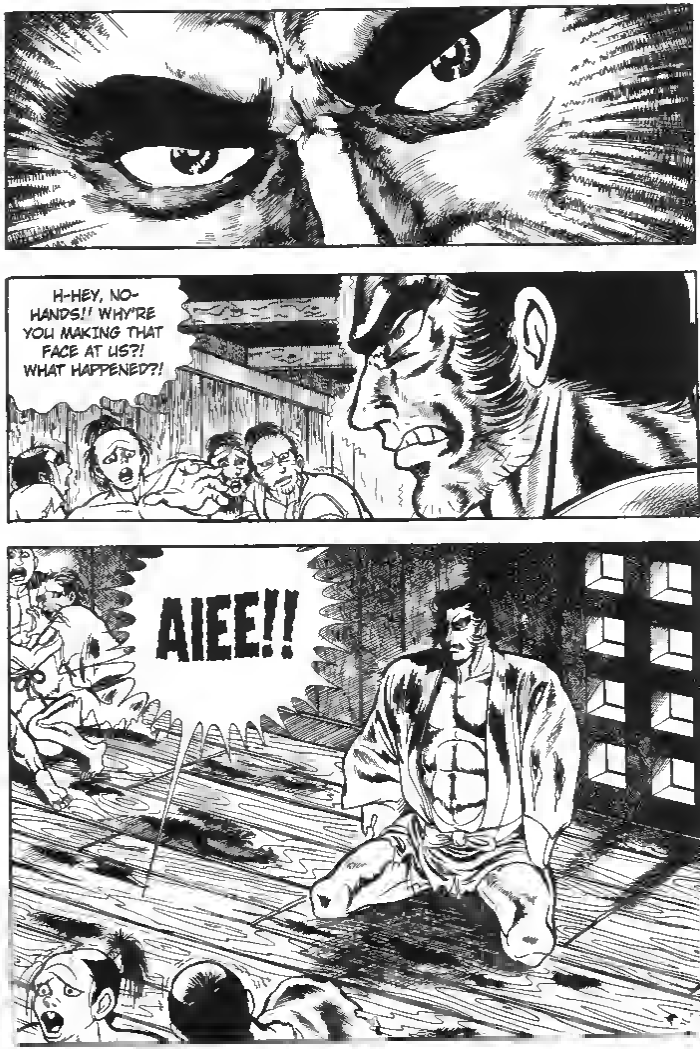
BY NOW, MUSO KONDO HAD BECOME JUST ONE OF THE PRISONERS.

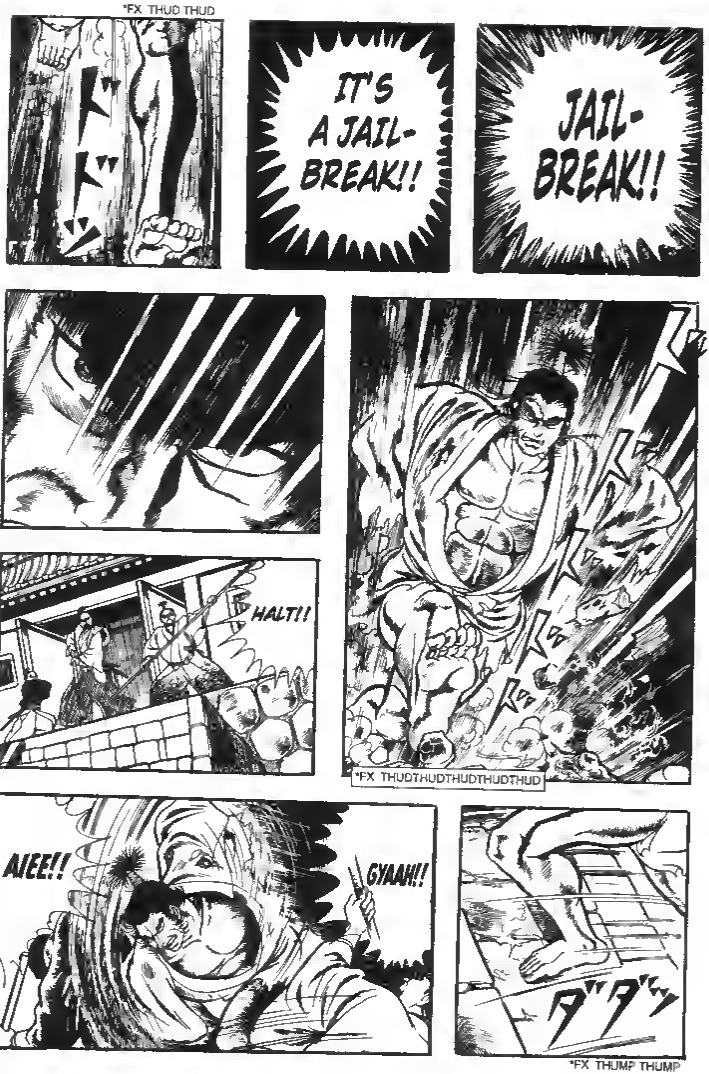
AND HE ALWAYS PROTECTED THE WEAK.


HE GAVE HIS OWN FOOD TO THE HUNGRY...

HE ATTENDED TO THE SICK..

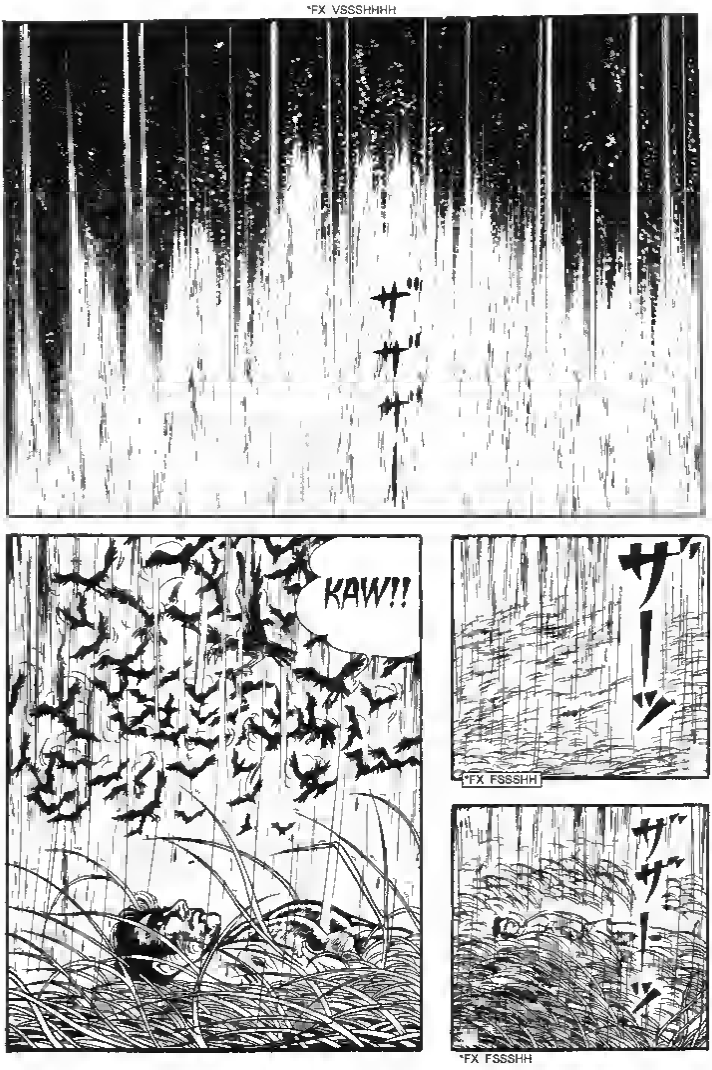
*FX CLANG
*FX WHOOSH
YOUR SON SHOGO WAS SENT TO THE BATTLEFIELD TO PROTECT THE YOUNG MASTER, BUT ON THE NEWS MASTER WAS KILLED, SHOGO WAS BEHEADED!
MUSO, I BRING A MESSAGE FROM THE LORD.
WHAT?!
HURRK!!
BUT.. MASTER WAS STILL ALIVE!!
GRRR!!
HRRR...!!
I'M SORRY!!


H-HEY, NO-HANDS!! WHY'RE YOU MAKING THAT FACE AT US?! WHAT HAPPENED?!
AIEE!!

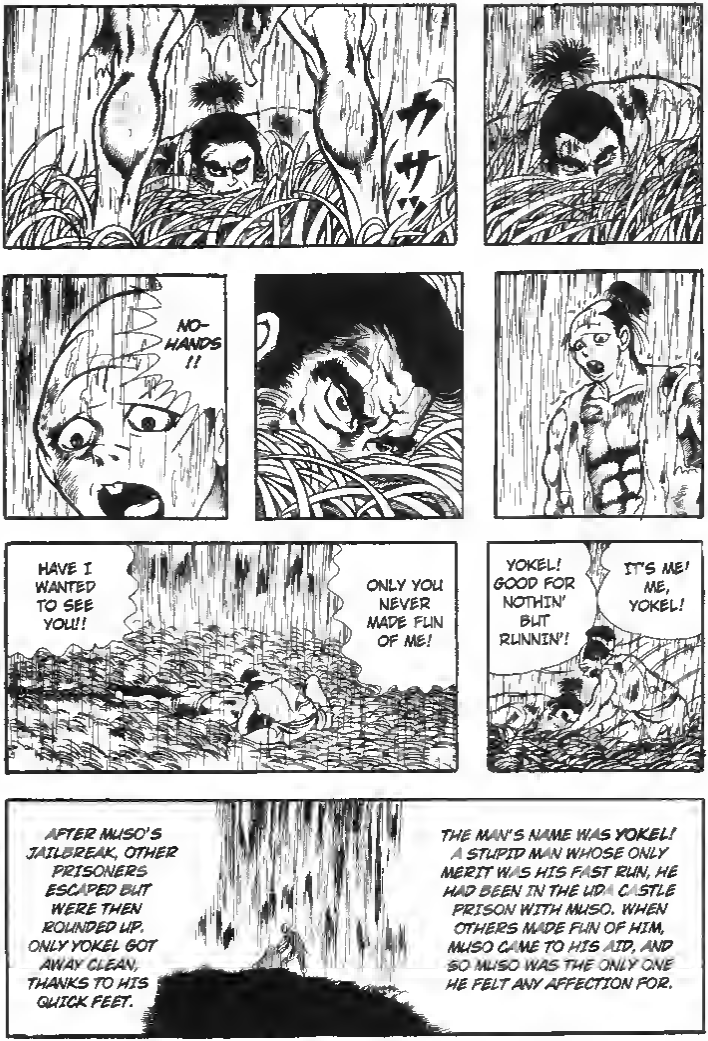

*FX THUD THUD
IT'S A JAIL-BREAK!!
JAIL-BREAK!!
HALT!!
*FX THUDTHUDTHUDTHUDTHUD
AIEE!!
GYAAH!!
*FX THUMP THUMP

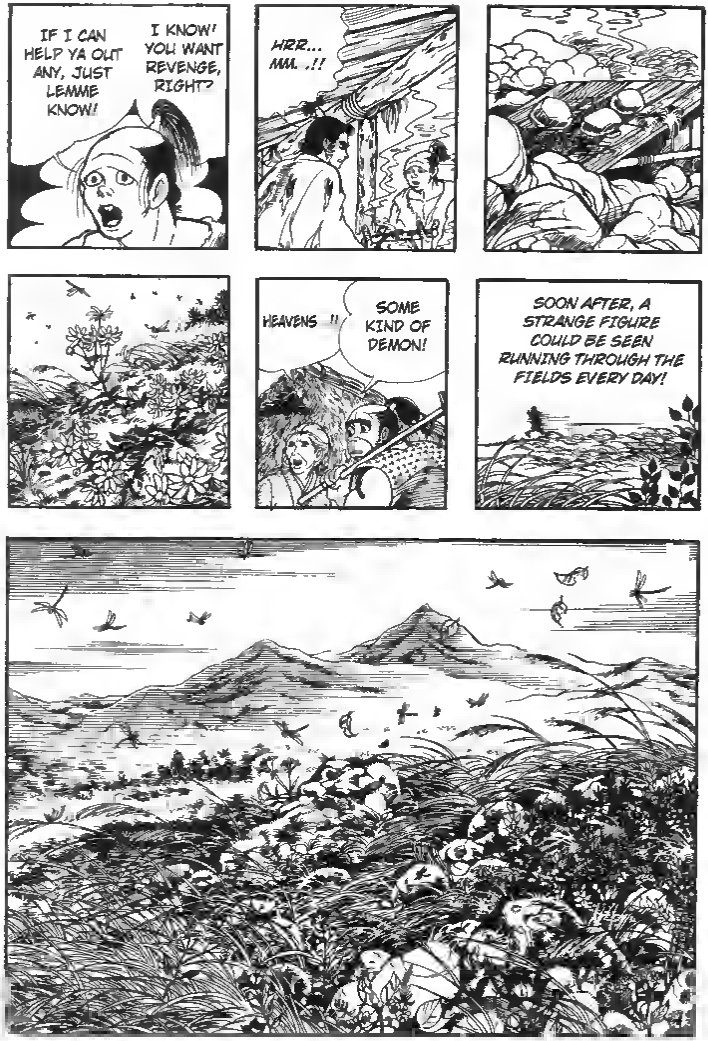
*FX THUDTHUDTHUDTHUD
WHAT'S ALL THIS NOISE ABOUT?!
AAH!!
*FX THUDTHUD
M-MUSO!!
*FX GRAB
*FX THUD THUD

HE'S A TOUGH OLD MAN! HE BROKE THROUGH THE PRISON CLAPBOARDS AND MADE IT INTO THE CASTLE...!!
-HUH!-
-HUH!-
WHAT AWESOME WRATH!! TO TRY TO EXACT HIS REVENGE ON ME WITHOUT HANDS OR A SWORD...!!
I'LL CUT OFF YOUR FEET SO YOU NEVER WALK AGAIN!!
BUT I WON'T KILL YOU YET!! I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THE DEPTHS OF MY HATRED!!
I...I'LL SEE TO IT YOU NEVER THREATEN ME AGAIN!!
SWINE!
ONCE YOU'RE HOBBLED WE'LL TOSS YOU OUT INTO THE BARREN PLAINS!! YOU'LL LIVE IN EXCRUTIATING SUFFERING, WAITING ONLY FOR DEATH!!
WA-HAHAHAHA! IF YOU CAN'T WALK THEN YOU'LL NEVER HAVE YOUR VENGEANCE!!


*FX VSSSHHHH
KAW!!
*FX FSSSHH
*FX FSSSHH

*FX SHURF
MUSO ENDURED, EATING GRASS AND SIPPING RAINWATER, AVOIDING DEATH'S APPROACH WITH UNBELIEVABLE WILL.
KAW!!
*FX SHURF
BUT HE NEVER GAVE UP ON HIS REVENGE AGAINST UDA AND EDGED TOWARDS THE CASTLE, INCH BY INCH...

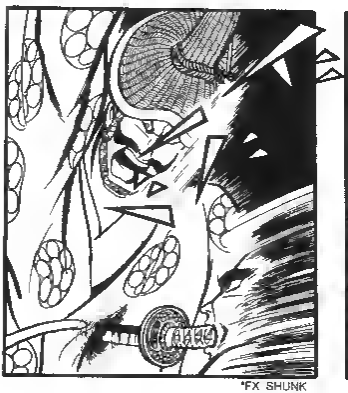

*FX SHIFT
カサッ
NO-HANDS!!
HAVE I WANTED TO SEE YOU!!
ONLY YOU NEVER MADE FUN OF ME!
YOKEL! GOOD FOR NOTHIN' BUT RUNNIN'!
IT'S ME! ME, YOKEL!
AFTER MUSO'S JAILBREAK, OTHER PRISONERS ESCAPED BUT WERE THEN ROUNDED UP. ONLY YOKEL GOT AWAY CLEAN, THANKS TO HIS QUICK FEET.
THE MAN'S NAME WAS YOKEL! A STUPID MAN WHOSE ONLY MERIT WAS HIS FAST RUN. HE HAD BEEN IN THE UDA CASTLE PRISON WITH MUSO. WHEN OTHERS MADE FUN OF HIM, MUSO CAME TO HIS AID, AND SO MUSO WAS THE ONLY ONE HE FELT ANY AFFECTION FOR.


IF I CAN HELP YA OUT ANY, JUST LEMME KNOW!
I KNOW! YOU WANT REVENGE, RIGHT?
HRR... MM. .!!
HEAVENS !!
SOME KIND OF DEMON!
SOON AFTER, A STRANGE FIGURE COULD BE SEEN RUNNING THROUGH THE FIELDS EVERY DAY!

AND THEN ONE DAY...
LOOK! THERE'S GAME!
ANYWAY, TODAY WE'RE HERE TO HUNT!
-=HMPH!=- HE'S PROBABLY BEEN EATEN BY DOGS BY NOW!
MY LORD .. THIS IS WHERE WE DUMPED THE ARMLESS ONE.
EH? WHAT IS THAT?!
*FX. THUDTHUDTHUD
*FX. FLAP FLAP FLAP
*FX. THUDTHUDTHUD
*FX. THUDTHUDTHUD

*FX THUD THUD
STOP HIM!!
WHAT THE DEVIL?!
*FX VOOSH

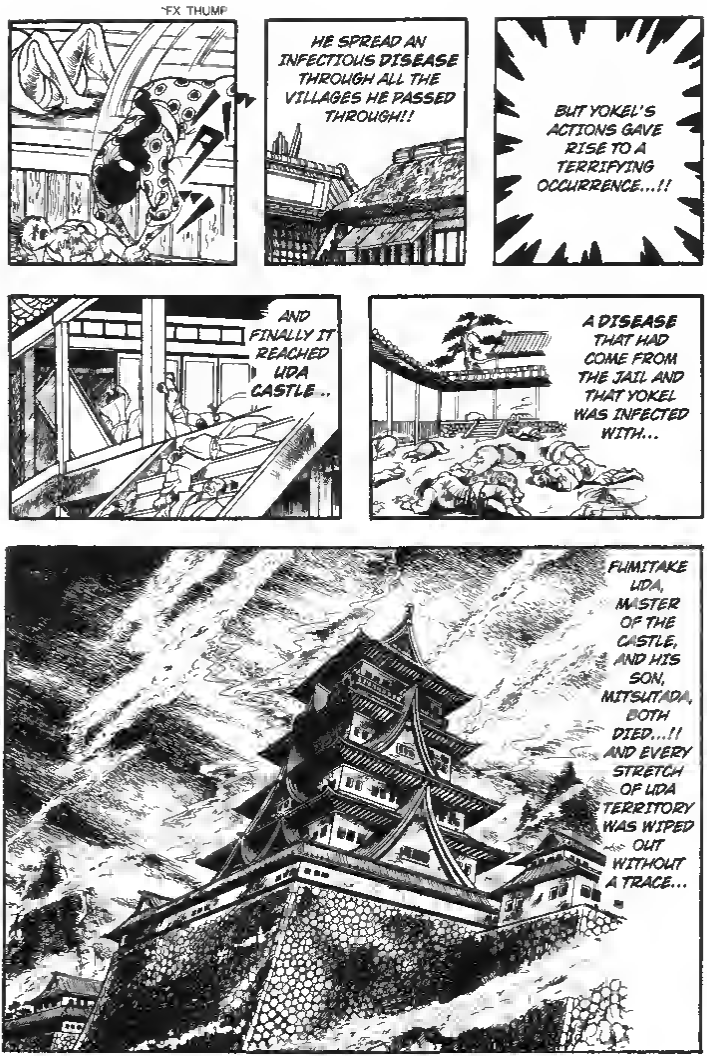
HALT!!
*FX CHOP
*FX SLASH
ギャっ
FX YEARGH
*FX WHOOSH
NEIGHHH!!



*FX SHUNK

*FX RRRIP
*FX THUD
HAVING ACHIEVED THE VENGEANCE TO WHICH HE HAD SO LONG DEDICATED HIS SURVIVAL, MUSO SIMPLY LOST THE WILL TO LIVE...
MUSO BREATHED HIS LAST...

*FX. BWAH HA HAH HAH HAH
わっはっ
はっはっ
HAHAHA HAHA!
YOU TOOK OUT YOUR REVENGE ON MY DOUBLE, FOOL!!
I DO NOT FALL TO THE LIKES OF YOU!!
THE HUNT CONTINUES!!
...AS IF HE FELT SORROW FOR MUSO...
AFTERWARDS, YOKEI COULD STILL BE SEEN DASHING ABOUT THE FIELDS WITH A ROCK ON HIS BACK.
CHIRP


*FX THUMP
HE SPREAD AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE THROUGH ALL THE VILLAGES HE PASSED THROUGH!!
BUT YOKEL'S ACTIONS GAVE RISE TO A TERRIFYING OCCURRENCE...!!
AND FINALLY IT REACHED UDA CASTLE..
A DISEASE THAT HAD COME FROM THE JAIL AND THAT YOKEL WAS INFECTED WITH...
FUMITAKE UDA, MASTER OF THE CASTLE, AND HIS SON, MITSUTADA, BOTH DIED...!! AND EVERY STRETCH OF UDA TERRITORY WAS WIPED OUT WITHOUT A TRACE...
THE END

STOP!

THIS IS THE BACK OF THE BOOK!

This manga collection is translated into English but oriented in a right-to-left reading format at the creator's request, maintaining the artwork's visual orientation as originally published in Japan. If you've never read manga in this way before, take a look at the diagram below to give yourself an idea of how to go about it. Basically, you'll be starting in the upper right corner and will read each balloon and panel moving right to left. It may take some getting used to, but you should get the hang of it very quickly. Enjoy!